GMA may ask US to take NPA out of terror list

STORY BELOW, COL. 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2001 ★ 96 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 2 ₱15

Marcelo associates to file perjury raps

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND CARLITO PABLO

OFFICERS and directors of two companies owned by Pacifico Marcelo will file perjury charges against the businessman sometime this week for claiming under oath that both the President and her husband demanded majority control of a

MARCELO/ A21

Beauty in the beasts

NATUPAD DIN ANG PANGARAP KO!
MS CARABAO

BY ANSELMO ROQUE
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—It was the beauty in the beasts that drew the crowd.

Sixty-five "well-endowed" and healthy entries from Nueva

BEAUTY/ A6

Malaysia clears Nur

Cops find no link to Sayyaf

CONTRARY to the Philippine government's claim, Malaysian police said detained Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari was not involved in a series of kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf group in the country's resorts off Sabah last year.

Inspector General of Police Norian Mai was quoted by Bernama news agency as saying that there was no direct evidence pointing to Misuari's involvement with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

"He is only detained for entering the country without valid documents. As stated by the prime minister (Mahathir Mohamad), we will have him deported as soon as possible," Norian was quoted as saying late Saturday.

Misuari, head of a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), was being detained under the Immigration Act, which allowed for a person to be kept in custody for up to a month.

He was detained Nov. 24 as he fled to the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island after leading an armed revolt that left more than 100 people dead.

The Philippine government has accused Misuari of having ties to the Abu Sayyaf, which last year kidnapped 24 local and foreign tourists from Malaysia's Sipadan and Pandanan islands.

All but one of the hostages were freed after millions of dollars in ransom was paid to the rebels.

The Abu Sayyaf has been linked to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization, which has been blamed for the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Franklin Ebdalin, Philippine foreign undersecretary, said two weeks ago that Manila had furnished Kuala Lumpur with evidence confirming Misuari's ties to the bandit group and his group's involvement in the abduction of mostly foreign tourists from Sipadan.

A Philippine military report said the Abu Sayyaf was nothing more than a "special operations unit" of Misuari.

MALAYSIA/ A21

NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

EDWIN BACASMAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo is presented an INQUIRER front page that bannered her predecessor's downfall by INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez during the newspaper's 16th anniversary celebration on Saturday night.

About time, GMA says of wedding

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THIS mother of the groom might be all-business, but how could she not be excited with the upcoming wedding of her first-born?

"Ah yes (I approve of the wedding). It's about time. He's 32," President Macapagal-Arroyo says of her son Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo's announcement to marry his second cousin, Angela Montenegro, next year.

That Angela is Mikey's second cousin is not an issue for the President, who had said her sole confidante is God.

"I don't interfere in (my children's) love life," she said, indicating that the issue was closed.

On top of that, she described her future daughter-in-law as "very pretty," she affirms.

She said she had not really talked with Angela but added she knew her family quite well.

"Since her mother is our cousin we know the family quite well," Ms Macapagal said.

She said the wedding plans had also the blessings of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

The President said she first heard about Mikey's wedding plans from her daughter Lulli.

It would be the first wedding in Ms Macapagal's immediate family. The First Couple has three children—Mikey, Lulli and the youngest Dato.

"One time, he (Mikey) came to my room and said that he's quite serious about Angela," the President said.

Mikey, she recalled, told her that he "always thought that we should settle down."

ABOUT/ A19

Gloria may ask US to take NPA out of terror list

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

GOODWILL has its price, too.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she could ask the United States to remove the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) from its new list of terrorist groups on one condition.

"If we are convinced that they are sincere about a final peace agreement, then we will ask the US to take them (rebels) out of the list," Ms Macapagal told the INQUIRER on Saturday night.

Speaker Jose de Venecia had announced that, in a meeting last weekend in Utrecht and Oslo, the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) agreed to speed up the peace talks so that a final agreement ending the 33-year-old insurgency could be signed within "three to five months."

The NPA yesterday announced that it would declare a unilateral month-long Christmas ceasefire with the government starting Dec. 15 to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks next month.

The government suspended negotiations for a political settlement to the rebellion after the NPA assassinated two members of Congress in May and June.

The NPA is to "cease and desist from carrying out offensive operations against the armed units and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and paramilitary forces," the NDF, the NPA's political wing, said in a statement.

GLORIA/ A19

US bombing intensifies over Tora Bora

WAR without borders

TORA BORA, Afghanistan—B-52s and other US warplanes yesterday unleashed waves of air strikes on the Tora Bora cave complex as Afghan tribesmen prepared to launch a major ground assault on its al-Qaida defenders.

Bombing raids came almost every 30 minutes, pounding mountainsides and foothills and filling a valley below with clouds of dust and smoke.

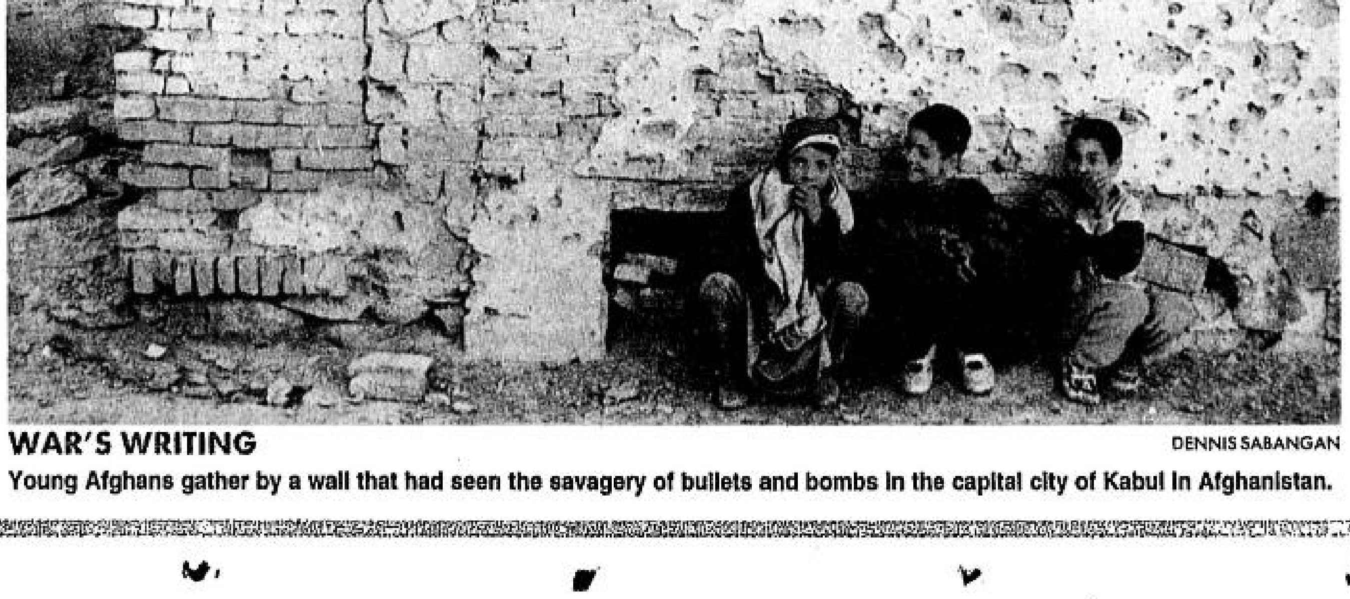
Some tribesmen said they were sure Osama bin Laden, with a $25-million bounty on his head, was hiding in Tora Bora's maze of tunnels and caverns.

But others in the capital, Kabul, said Bin Laden was likely hiding out in Afghanistan's south along with the Taliban's fugitive leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

A 27-year-old Tunisian fighter of the al-Qaida network, who was contacted by radio, claimed that Bin Laden was not in the Tora Bora area.

"I swear by God that Osama is not present here," said the man who identified himself as Abu Abdullah.

US/ A21



WAR'S WRITING

DENNIS SABANGAN

Young Afghans gather by a wall that had seen the savagery of bullets and bombs in the capital city of Kabul in Afghanistan.

Contractors, 'trapos' bug ₱2-B SK fund

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) may consist of young elected officials, but it isn't child's play.

The Local Government Code of 1991 set aside 10 percent of the general funds of each barangay for the use of the barangay's SK. All told, 10 percent of the annual Internal Revenue Allotment of all 14,943 barangays nationwide amounts to some P2 billion.

The amount may actually be higher because a barangay may source other income from taxes and the like.

Barangay Forbes Park appears to be the best-funded SK in the country, with a budget of P6.6 million this year. San Lorenzo, also in Makati City, the country's financial center, boasts a P4.7-million fund.

Quite a number of SKs from upper-class municipalities get anywhere from P200,000 to P1 million, while those in far-flung and economically depressed barangays would be lucky to have a few thousand pesos a year.

CONTRACTORS/ A20

TAMA NA ANG INTRIGA! TRABAHO NAMAN!

ECONOMIC SUMMIT TODAY

Stop attacks, opposition asked

By Carlito Pablo
Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

MALACAÑANG yesterday asked the opposition to stop its attacks on President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has admitted that she is both alarmed and saddened by the intrigues being sown against her administration.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao aired the appeal on the eve of today's National Socio-Economic Summit to be held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

The summit, which will be keynoted by the President, brings together national and private sector leaders to map out the country's recovery plan following the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Tiglao noted that the President had repeatedly appealed to the opposition to observe a moratorium on politicking, a call that she highlighted in her first state-of-the-nation address.

"What the President is sad about is that while she has made a plea for a stop to political bickering, the opposition is apparently even trying to step up its attacks," Tiglao said, in a teleconference call with Palace reporters.

Business agenda

The administration is expected to endorse a proposal by big business for a cessation of politicking and media sensationalism in today's summit.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said a proposed moratorium on politicking and a clampdown on media's focus on controversial issues, particularly on political and security matters, would be included in the resolution to be signed at the summit.

"It's in the preamble (of the resolution), so presumably we would sign it," Roxas told reporters.

Businessmen had charged that pressing economic problems have been sidetracked by public officials' preoccupation with politics, while media reports focused too much on the negative aspects of the news.

Pre-summit meetings have worked out the details of proposals put forth by the different sectors that would be crafted into the common agenda called the "Socio-Economic Pact of 2001."

The President, who will be presented with the pact, will sign it before the legislative, labor and economic leaders.

12 areas of concern

Today's summit will focus on 12 areas of economic concern—financial and fiscal policies; agriculture and rural development; international trade and export industry; airlines, shipping, hotel and other tourism-related industries; Information and communications technology; labor and employment; housing; infrastructure; education; health and other social services; peace and order and security; and governance.

"The summit will likewise seek solutions to the very problems that concern the survival of the nation, the future of the people and the day-to-day existence of every individual Filipino," the Palace statement said.

"The idea of the summit is to come up with short-term programs to deal with the impact of the Sept. 11 attacks. What is important is that very concrete proposals would be made instead of just motherhood statements," Tiglao said.

P1-B Kopra fund

Also at the summit, a multi-sectoral committee of farmers' organizations will push for the establishment of the Kopra Social Investment Fund (KSIF) with P1 billion from the earnings of the coco levy shares in the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

This after militant peasant groups called yesterday on the Presidential Commission on Good Government to freeze the assets of 11 major shareholders in the Coconut Producers Federation (Cocofed), mainly San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat, after both figured in the recently aborted deal to unlock P50-billion in coco levy shares in SMC.

The Sub-Sectoral Committee for Farmers' Organizations and NGOs, formed specifically to present a common agri-fishery agenda at today's summit, said the establishment of the KSIF using the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) in UCPB was the "best and most prompt solution to the rising poverty in coconut-producing areas."

The 20-page Common Agri-Fishery Agenda to be submitted by the sub-sectoral committee said the KSIF would be used to fund the government's Kopra Suporta sa Magsasaka program aimed at establishing trading networks in coconut-producing areas.

Surplus money

The proposal calls for the release of P1 billion from the cash surpluses and cash dividends of CIIF mills held in the UCPB to create the KSIF.

A KSIF governing board composed of representatives from all sectors of the coconut industry will assist the government in implementing all KSIF-related programs.

"Government can effect massive social re-engineering toward a more empowered small farmers' sector by helping small coconut farmholders' organizations set up their own marketing points," the sub-sectoral committee said.

The KSIF proposal came following the controversial compromise agreement between several coconut farmers' groups and Cojuangco, which would have created a P50-billion perpetual trust fund out of the 27 percent CIIF shares in SMC. PCGG chair Haydee Yorac rejected the deal for being "illegal and immoral."

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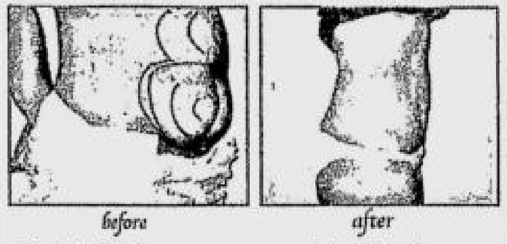
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Owwa probes officer in Brunei

THE OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration said it was investigating its man in Brunei for allegedly neglecting Filipino workers in the sultanate.

Administrator Wilhelm Soriano said the Owwa was looking into the complaints made by the Filipino Association in Brunei (FAB) against Owwa officer Nasser Mustafa.

Mustafa has been asked to explain charges of graft as well as complaints that he was allegedly conniving with Bruneian employers to exploit and even deport the OFWs, he said.

Soriano, however, dismissed the FAB's claim that Mustafa was being considered for the post of labor attaché in Brunei or that his papers were already with the congressional Commission of Appointments.

He said it was the labor secretary and not the CA that would be choosing the labor attaché, adding that the Owwa was not considering Mustafa for any post.

"The letter was unsigned even though it mentioned the name of FAB. I don't think it would be fair to the officer (for us) to immediately dismiss him based on these allegations that have yet to be proven," Soriano said. *Blanche S. Rivera*

GMA rules out combat for US soldiers in Basilan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ruled out participation of US military advisers in combat operations against the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group, which is holding an American couple and a Filipina hostage in Basilan province, her spokesperson said yesterday.

US counter-terrorism "consultants" were expected only to train Filipinos and equip them in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

A training camp has been set up for the Americans in Zamboanga City to "give some kind of practicum to the light reaction force they are training," Tiglao said.

"The President firmly believes that they (US advisers) should not be armed, or their deployment would fall into a gray area that they can be classified as foreign troops on Philippine soil," Tiglao said.

A team of US advisers visited Zamboanga on Saturday and reports said that they had expressed a desire to join combat operations to rescue Martin and Gracia Burnham, a Christian missionary couple from Kansas snatched by the Abu Sayyaf from a beach resort in May.

The gunmen earlier this year killed a third American hostage, Californian Guillermo Sobero, along with more than a dozen Filipinos.

The US government has sent two batches of US military advisers to the south since last month, when Ms Macapagal secured a commitment from US President George W. Bush to help Manila destroy the Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf is a small group of self-styled Islamic freedom fighters both governments have linked to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Tiglao said the Philippines expects the US government to "provide some more material help in terms of equipment." AFP

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Don't abolish Customs, BOC chief begs Congress

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

CUSTOMS Commissioner Titus Villanueva has appealed to Congress not to abolish the Bureau of Customs even as he stressed that he was working to curb corruption in the agency.

Villanueva said he was "doing everything (he) can" to please the Senate, including removing two Customs officials in Cebu at the bidding of Senators John Osmeña and Robert Barbers.

The Customs chief admitted that the agency has become a breeding ground for graft and corrupt practices and that smuggling continues despite intensive efforts to crack down on it.

"In a bureau where money is involved, you can't avoid graft," Villanueva said in an earlier interview.

"In the same way that smuggling can't be totally eradicated as long as the profit motive is there," he added.

With the prevailing environment, added to the low rate of government salaries, state employees are understandably "tempted" to engage in unscrupulous deals.

He said the customs bureau was already conducting lectures on value-formation and looking into reports on allegedly erring officials like Santiago Maravillas and Elizabeth Ambejo, the Cebu Customs officers who were removed last week.

Senators Osmeña and Barbers had demanded the removal of Maravillas and Ambejo whom they claimed were allegedly engaging in illegal activities in Cebu's ports.

Osmeña threatened to bolt the majority bloc in the Senate if Maravillas was not replaced.

Villanueva said this was the reaction he got whenever he went to Congress. Many lawmakers want the customs bureau abolished and replaced by a task force under the finance department, he said.

"I wonder why they don't appreciate (what we're doing)," Villanueva said. "They should also listen to the positive side. We are doing everything we can to remedy the situation."

Palace hits Ping, Sabah connection

LACSON

TIGLAO

A MALAYSIAN politician whom Sen. Panfilo Lacson met last week to ostensibly work for the release of two American hostages, was trying to broker the payment of a ransom for the couple, possibly for a commission, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Tiglao again criticized Lacson for meeting with Malaysian ex-senator Sairin Karno to allegedly open talks for the release of Martin and Gracia Burnham, held by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

Tiglao said in a television interview that Karno had been involved in the payment of ransom for some of the Malaysian hostages seized in a similar Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree last year.

After the Burnhams and 18 other people were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort in May, Karno "had been insisting (that he be) our negotiator, that he would be able to talk with the Abu Sayyaf for the hostages' release," Tiglao said.

"The only qualification he would have for such a thing is if he had some access to ransom payments and he would be brokering for it which means he would get some commission out of it," Tiglao said.

"This was the only conclusion we would arrive at," he said.

Tiglao recalled that two months ago, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya had been demanding that Karno act as the negotiator and even threatened to behead a hostage if this was not granted, indicating that Sabaya and Karno had some sort of relationship.

The Abu Sayyaf has seized more hostages after the raid on the resort and has also released some, reportedly in exchange for hefty ransom payments.

But the group has also killed one American hostage, Californian Guillermo Sobero, and more than a dozen Filipino captives.

The government's policy is not to pay ransoms, saying it will only encourage more kidnappings.

Lacson, a former police chief, flew to Sabah to meet with Karno, saying he could obtain the release of the Burnham couple without ransom.

However, he returned empty-handed and blamed Tiglao for spoiling the plan to free the Americans by disclosing that Lacson had met Karno and Zamboanga City-based businessman Li Peng Wee.

Karno and Wee both served as negotiators for the previous Estrada administration for the release of foreign hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan.

Tiglao surmised that Lacson could have been arranging for the payment of ransom to the Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf are still holding the Burnhams and a Filipina nurse, the last remnants of their kidnapping spree. *AFP*

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Sorry, says US Embassy

BY C. AVENDAÑO

IT looks like Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada will be able to set foot in America again.

The US Embassy has apologized to Lozada for canceling his US visa without explanation. It also wants the congressman to send back his passport so the embassy could rectify its "administrative lapse."

Lozada said yesterday the apology was extended to him by a Mr. Martin of the US Embassy, who phoned him a few hours after he delivered a privileged speech on Wednesday on the cancellation of his US visa.

"We are sorry about the whole thing and we're very embarrassed about this," Lozada quoted Mr. Martin as telling him.

Lozada, who chairs the House committee on foreign affairs, said the US Embassy official offered to rectify the situation and asked to have his passport picked up.

Mr. Martin told him the cancellation of his valid 10-year visa, that was to run to 2005, was an "administrative lapse," given that the embassy processes 250,000 visas every month, Lozada said.

But, Lozada said, he accepted the embassy's explanation "with reservations."

He pointed out his passport was with the embassy for two months and four days—enough time to make the necessary background checks on him. "So how could there have been an administrative lapse?" he asked.

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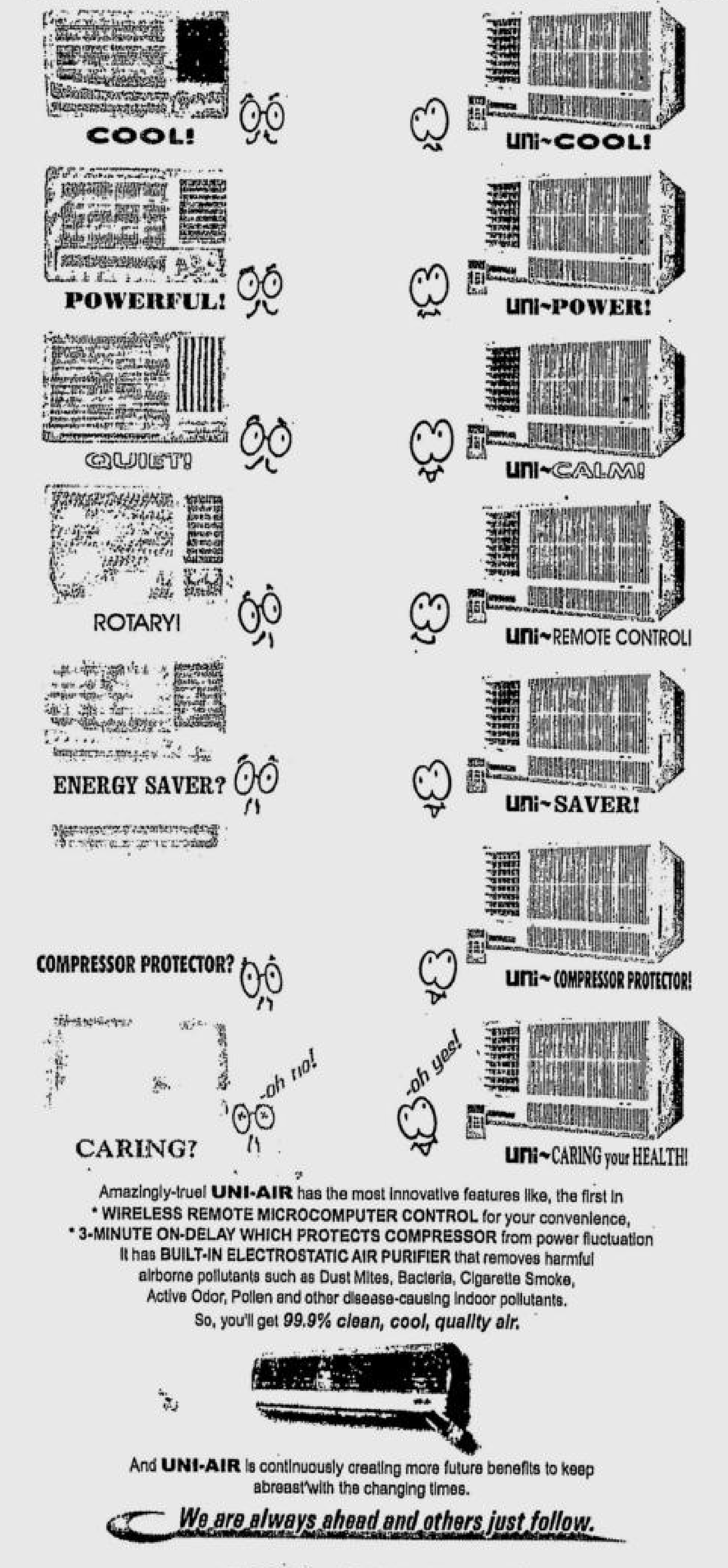
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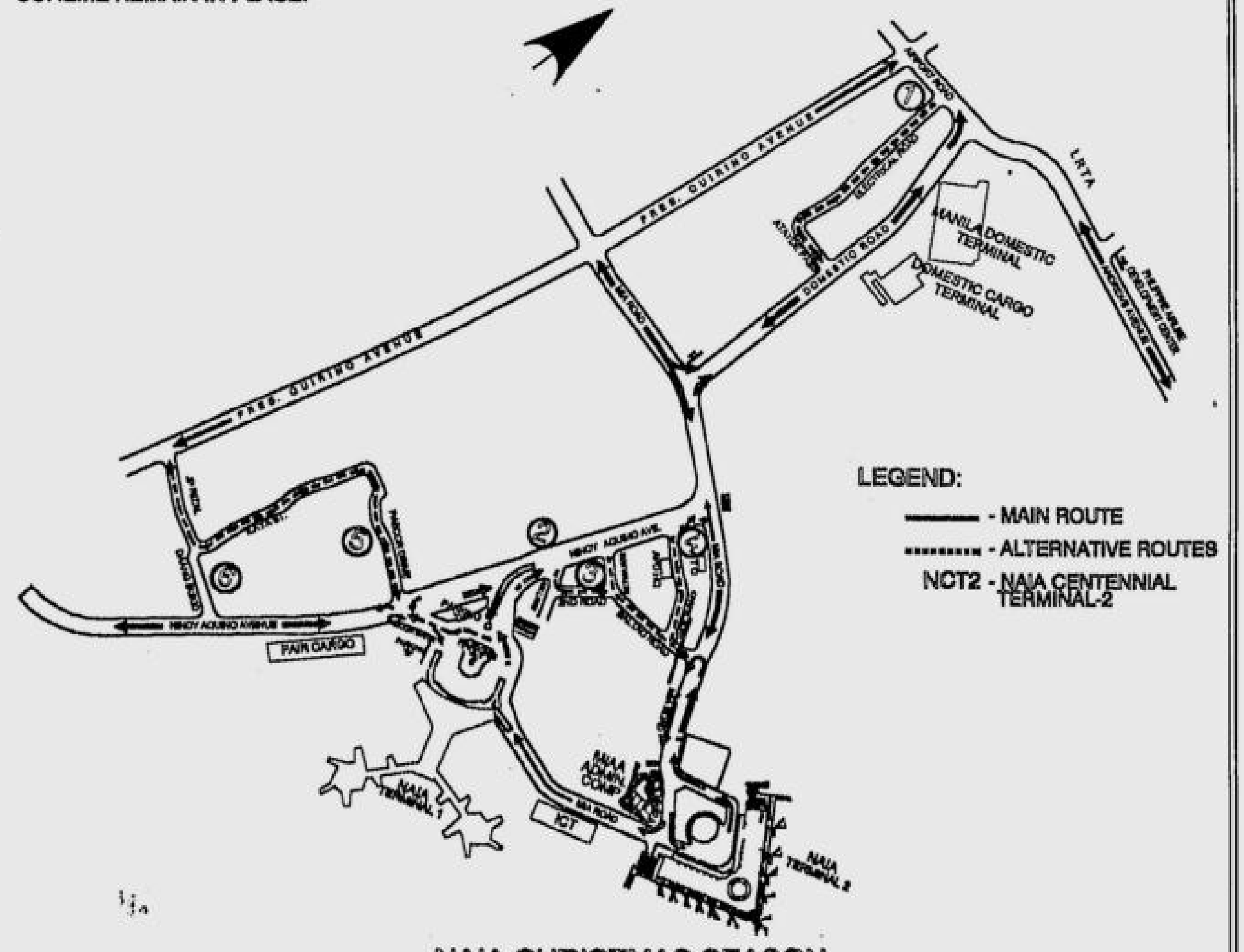

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Strunk due at NBI to answer 'new questions' on Nida slay

By P. Tubeza

THE AMERICAN husband of murdered actress Nida Blanca will appear before the National Bureau of Investigation anytime this week to answer "new questions" about the murder case.

Rod Strunk will be answering questions that the police did not ask him before, an NBI source said yesterday.

Strunk has reportedly given police investigators a sworn affidavit.

The source said that Strunk was not subpoenaed and that his lawyer had "verbally agreed" for his client to go to the NBI.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco earlier said that "nobody is off the hook yet" in the Blanca murder case even after Philip Medel retracted an earlier confession he made in which he said he killed Blanca and that Strunk was the mastermind.

Wycoco said the bureau was still looking at a quarrel over "property and money" as the most probable motive.

Blanca's daughter, Katherine Jones Torres, and accountant, Catherine Alba, have given sworn statements to the NBI about the victim's financial affairs.

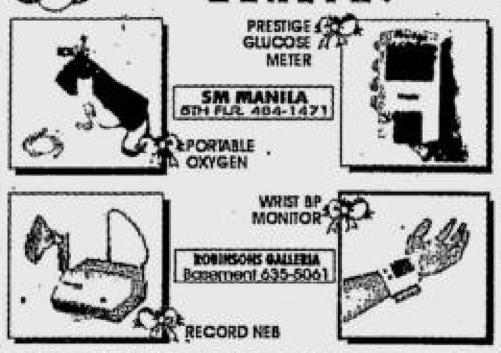
Torres allegedly declined to answer questions about Strunk, her stepfather.

An NBI source said Torres' and Alba's statements did not focus on the crime itself but on the possible motive.

Blanca was found dead on Nov. 7 inside her Nissan sedan at the Atlanta Center building on Annapolis Street in San Juan.

Wycoco said the NBI has found a new set of fingerprints and body fluids from Blanca's car that did not belong to the victim.

He said the bureau was still trying to find out who took custody of the car after the crime and if the car had been "exposed" to other people after it was taken by authorities.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CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

In cooperation with the Department of Trade & Industry

DTI Department of Trade & Industry Philippines

GOOD NEWS!

We are pleased to inform the consuming public that prices of prime commodities have remained stable the past three months. This is based on a survey conducted in Metro Manila last December 4th by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Agriculture, and the Consumer & Oil Price Watch.

COMMODITIES	September Prices	Prices as of December 4	Increase/Decrease September-December
Ordinary Rice (35% broken)	P 18.00	P 18.00	same
Special Rice	20.00	20.00	same
Evap Milk			
(Alaska & Carnation)	22.00	22.00	same
Powdered Milk 200g (Bear Brand)	33.00	29.00	decrease
Coffee Refill 50g			
(Great Taste, Cafe Puro, Nescafé)	23.00-24.00	22.50-24.00	same
Sardines 155g			
(Master & 555)	8.00	8.00	same
Instant Noodles 320g			
(Maggi, Payless, Lucky Me)	3.75-4.00	3.75-4.00	same
Toilet Soap			
(Palmolive & Tender Care)	14.00	13.50-14.00	same
Laundry Soap 480g (Perla)	23.00	23.00	same
Detergent Bar			
(Ajax, Mr. Clean, Surf)	14.50-16.00	14.50-16.00	same
Pork Liempo	115.00	115.00	same
Pork Ham	120.00	115.00	decrease
Dressed Chicken	90.00	90.00	same
Refined Sugar (kg)	28.00	28.00	same
Brown Sugar (kg)	24.00	23.00	decrease
Cooking Oil			
Lapad/Bilog	10.00	10.00	same
Long Neck	20.00	20.00	same
Portland Cement	140.00	125.00	decrease

MORE GOOD NEWS!

Prices of prime commodities will remain the same this December even as historically these prices escalate during the last quarter and reach their peak during the Christmas season. This was confirmed by the Producers and Manufacturers who attended the meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council at the Department of Trade and Industry last December 5th.

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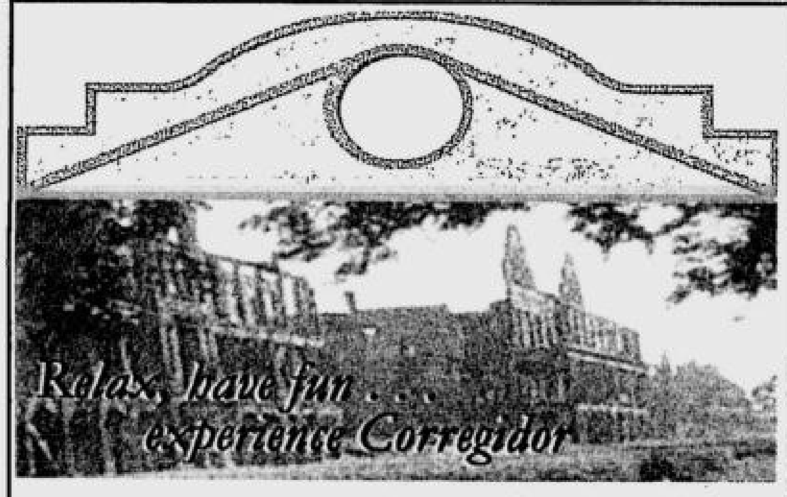

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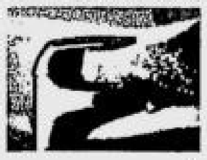
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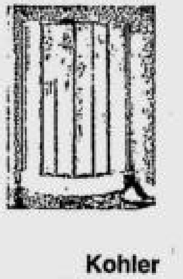
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Beauty in the beasts

(From page A1)

Ecija, Bulacan and Pampanga participated in several competitions held here last week.

The "Mr. Carabao" contest, actually a carabao race, attracted the biggest number of participants with 55. Four animals competed for the "Mrs. Carabao" title and six for the "Miss Carabao" title.

More than 3,000 spectators came to watch the shows held on Dec. 5 as part of the activities of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), the agency focused during the 10-day celebration of the city's first charter anniversary.

It was the "Mr. Carabao" contest, which pitted the fastest and strongest carabaos in a 300-meter cart race, that attracted the most attention.

At the end of the 15 elimination rounds and final showdown among the qualifiers, "Bulo Jr.," owned by farmer Manuel Ventura of San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, won the title and the top prize of P20,000.

Two entries from Candaba, Pampanga, named "King Fighter" and "Bulo" came second and third. An entry from San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, "Jet Fighter," was fourth.

The winners in the "Mrs. Carabao" and "Miss Carabao" contests, actually competitions for the best dairy buffalo and best decorated carabao, respectively, were also proclaimed and their owners given P5,000 cash prize.

But two female carabaos, which were not included in the PCC contests, inspired farmers because of their potentials in providing a higher income to poor farm families in terms of milk yield.

The carabaos, which are part of the PCC's herd, average 12.5 liters of milk a day.

"They are the top of the line dairy buffaloes in our gene pool here," Dr. Libertado Cruz, PCC executive director, said.

One of the PCC carabaos is an island-born Bulgarian murrah buffalo. It is 4 years old and weighs 550 kilos.

Cruz said this carabao has already shown "great promise" as a source of fresh milk as it produces an average of 12 liters of milk a day in its first lactation.

The other carabao, Cruz said, is an imported murrah buffalo weighing 540 kilograms and now yielding 13 liters a day in its third lactation.

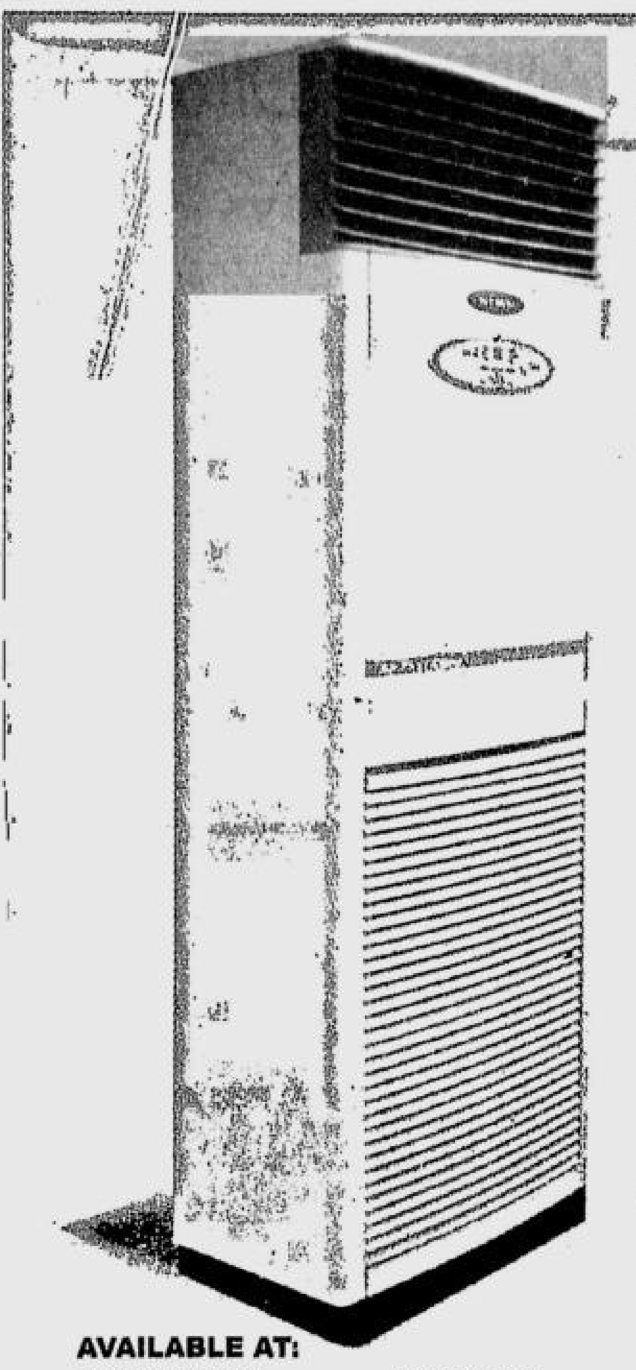
The animals are part of the 600 quality carabao herd kept in the compound of the PCC here. About 100 of them are milked two times a day at the center's mechanical milking facility.

Cruz said the carabaos were being given institutional support like feed, health care and other forms of animal management.

PCC reports indicated that the carabaos given by the agency to the farmers were already producing five to nine liters of milk a day, he said.

"That's already good milk harvest compared to what the native carabaos give," he said. "The native carabaos average 1.5 liters of milk a day only."

Cruz said one important aspect of the PCC's carabao improvement program is providing qualified dairy cooperatives with female buffaloes to increase milk production in the country and help farmers get better income.



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The Philam Foundation, in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), is appealing to your kind hearts to support the Aid for Basilan Children (ABC) Fund Drive. We hope to raise funds for the educational support of the children in Basilan. With your donation, we can help provide school materials, nutritious meals and transportation fare so that they can go to school the whole year round.

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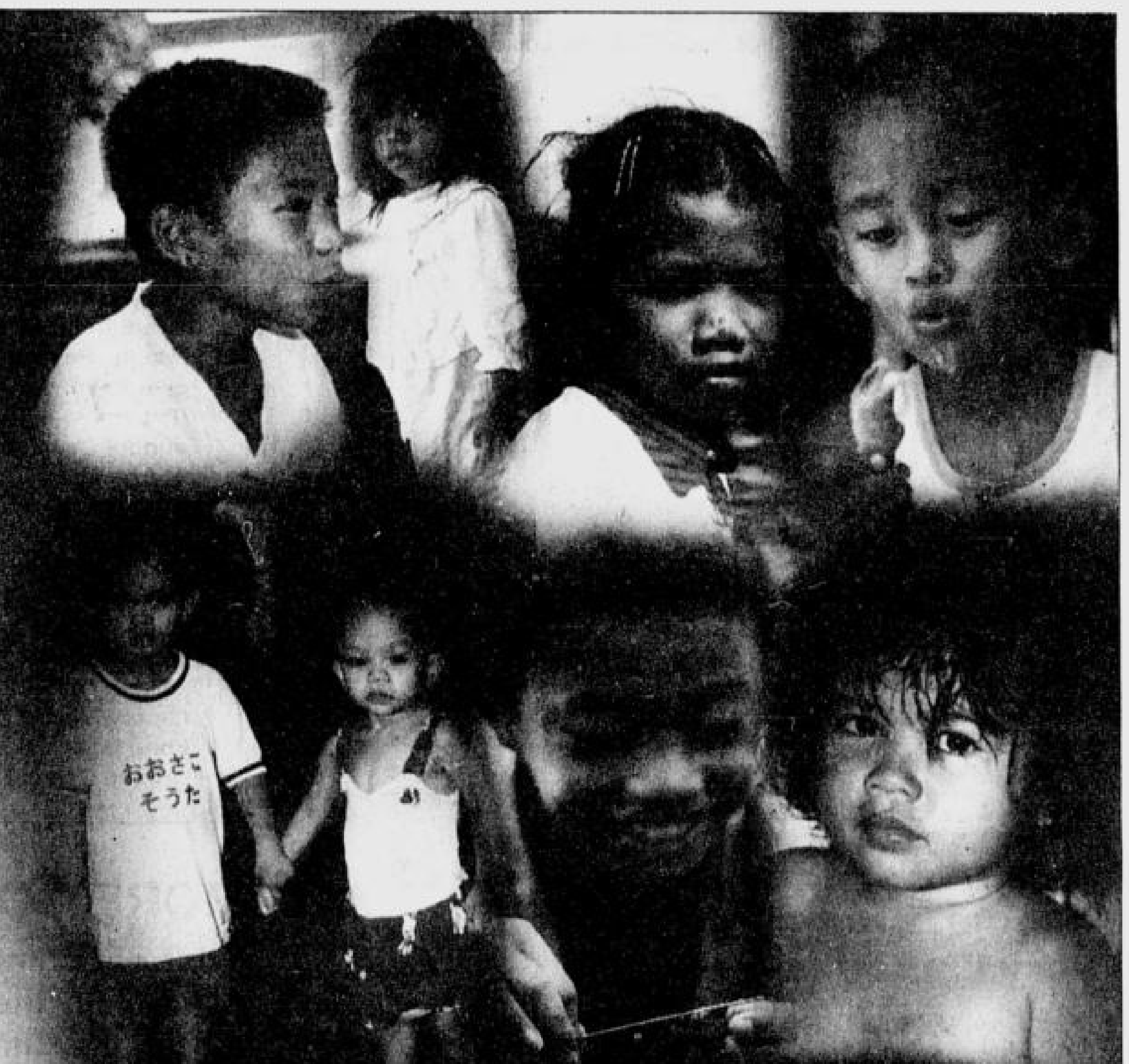

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Kahanga-hangang Tagumpay ng Pilipinong Matibay

The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Awardees for Year 2001

Dr. Fortunata C. Villamar **Education**

- Forerunner of the Distance Education System in the Philippines
- Established the Open University System in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) for Masters in Education Management
- Commissioned by UNESCO in Paris, France to prepare six modules on Regional Planning in Education printing in both English and French
- Consultant at PUP; former Chief of Planning and Programming Division, Planning Services of the Department of Education, Culture & Sports
- Resource speaker and consultant in more than 200 in-service education programs on planning management in 14 regions of the country
UNESCO and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) offices in areas' ranging from Development Economics to Education and Planning Administration
- Recipient of: Outstanding Teacher Award, 1962, given by Seven Governors of Central Luzon; Award of Service in Education, 1978, given by Board of Trustees of National Teachers College;" Dangal ng Lipi sa Larangan ng Edukasyon",1991, given by Bulacan local government, Certificate of Recognition for her contribution to PUP Open University, 1995, PUP
- Bachelor of Science in Education, major in Elementary Education, Arellano University; Master of Arts in Education major in Administration and Supervision, National Teachers College; Doctorate of Education major in Education Administration, Supervision and Educational Planning, Philippine Women's University

Justice Jose C. Vitug
Justice and Law

- Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines; Senior Member of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal; Chairman of the Supreme Court Committee on Legal Education; Co-Chairman of the Supreme Court Committee on Appropriations
- Former Dean of Arellano Law Foundation
- Chairman of the 1997 Bar Examinations
- Bar reviewer on Civil Law, Taxation and Commercial Law in review centers such as Manila Review Center; Metropolitan Review Center and National Bar Review Center
- Professor of Law in : Arellano University; Ateneo de Manila University; Far Eastern University; Lyceum of the Philippines; Manuel L. Quezon University (MLQU); San Beda College; University of Sto. Tomas; U.P. Law Center
- Professional Lecturer of the School of Graduate Studies in MLQU
- Head of Philippine Delegation to the Federal Court of Australia, 2001; Panelist of the WIPO Asian Regional Colloquium on the Judiciary and the Intellectual Property System, India, 1996; Global Conference on Anti-Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, Washington D. C., USA, 1999; Millennium Law Conference, Singapore, 2000; Intensive Program for Judicial Educators, Canada, 2000
- Fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute of Canada
- Among his published works are Compendium of Tax Law and Jurisprudence; Pandect of Commercial Law and Jurisprudence; Compendium of Civil Law and Jurisprudence; and The Family Code Annotated
- Recipient of the Distinguished National Defense College of the Philippines Alumnus Award, 2001; Outstanding Manilan Award, 2000; Outstanding Kapampangan, 1999; Outstanding MLQU Alumnus, 1993
- Bachelor of Laws, Cum Laude, MLQU, 1956; Master of Laws, 1962; Master of National Security Administration, 1975

Dr. James G. Dy
Humanitarian Service

- Chairman of the Board and President of the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association (PCCA). PCCA owns and operates the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC), Home for the Aged, CGH College of Nursing, The Charity Pavilion and the Free Clinic at the PCCA Bldg, in Binondo, Manila.
- Chairman and President of Universal Records Philippines, Galaxy Records, MCA Universal, Dyna Products, Dyna Drug Corp., Eagle Electric of the Phils., Machinebanks Corp., Pan Pacific Travel, Pan Euro International, Inc., Pacific Place Multi-Development Corp., Lattds Development, Bell Films
- Has organized and personally supervised relief operations in the aftermath of calamities such as earthquakes in Baguio, Dagupan and Oriental Mindoro (1990-1994);Mt. Pinatubo eruption (1991) Ormoc, Leyte, typhoon in Surigao del Norte (1993); Mayon Volcano eruptions, El Nino famine in Mindanao; Payatas landslide, among others
- Undertakes weekly medical and dental missions among rural, urban poor, coastal and squatter areas throughout the country through the CGHMC
- Donated 150 school houses, seven of which were his personal donations, to the government during his term as Chairman of the Welfare Committee of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (1985-87 and 1989-91); donated a livelihood center to a barangay in Olongapo City in 1994
- Awards Received: Outstanding Manilan Award; Presidential Award for Distinguished and Meritorious Service by the Pasay City Lions Club; Outstanding Leadership Award by the Philippine Institute of Awards; Community Service Award by Olongapo City; and "Pinakatatanging Lingkod Bayan" Award from Diario Uno.

Dr. Ceferino L. Follosco
Engineering

- Secretary of the Department of Science & Technology (1989-1992). Implemented the Science and Technology Master Plan; Comprehensive Technology Transfer and Commercialization Program; and Science and Engineering Manpower Development Program
- Considered as the "Builder of the Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV)" with his creation and manufacture of the Ford-Fiera
- Recognized world-wide as an expert in the field of agricultural mechanization; an Agricultural Mechanization Expert on policy and strategies in national, ASEAN and UNIDO matters
- Recognized as the "Father of Productivity Movement" in the Philippines
- Helped draft and push for the approval of the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises, now considered a landmark legislation for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Chairman of Agro-Industrial Management and Consultancy, Inc.
Helped form the ASEAN Agricultural Machinery Foundation and ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Private sector representative in the Presidential Gas Task Force; Presidential Committee on Nuclear Energy; Consultant for the Export Development Council
- Awards received: "Most Outstanding Professional Mechanical Engineer" by the Philippine Regulatory Commission"; "Most Outstanding Professional Agricultural Engineer" by the Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineers"; MERALCO Award for Engineering and Applied Sciences; ASEAN Engineering Award by the Confederation of ASEAN Engineering Organizations; Academician by the National Academy of Science and Technology; Philippine Quality and Productivity Award.
- Graduated Summa Cum Laude in Electrical Engineering and Magna Cum Laude in Mechanical Engineering from the FEATI University
- Topnotcher in the Professional Mechanical Engineers Exam in 1960
- Fulbright Smith-Mundt scholar during his Masters Degree in Agricultural Engineering in Iowa State University

Mr. Enrique J. Zobel
Business

- Chairman of the Board & Executive Committee President of Ayala Corporation, 1968-1983 during which time he built Ayala Corporation from a middle-size family firm into a huge business conglomerate with interests in banking, land development, insurance, food manufacturing and processing, agriculture, communication, and other strategic industries
- Managing Partner of Ayala y Compania, 1955-1968; instrumental in the development of the family-owned Hacienda San Pedro de Makati, a former swampland into a premier residential, commercial and financial district in the country
- Chairman of the Board and President of Ayala International (AI), 1983-1985; AI was a Filipino multi-national company whose operations were concentrated abroad and dealt in real estate, banking; trading, insurance, hotel and tourism, and agriculture
- Built the Istana Palalce in Brunei, the palace of the Sultan of Brunei where he employed 12.000 Filipino workers and engineers
- Founder of Makati Business Club, where he served as chairman from 1981-1986
- Chairman of the Board of a dozen corporations in diverse industries such as agriculture, realty, property and resort management, including that of E. Zobel Foundation, Inc.
- Established the Palabra de Honor, a program under the E. Zobel Foundation which gives financial assistance to small businessmen
- Recipient of : Distinguished LaSallian Award, De La Salle University; Vinta Award, 1983, Phil Council of Management; Distinguished Service Medallion, Reserved Officers Legion of the Phil.; Plaque of Distinction, 1992, Phil. Air Force Reserve Command
- Adopted Son of San Roque, Cadiz, Spain for his contribution to the development of Sotogrande and the tourism industry in Spain.
- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, University of California, USA

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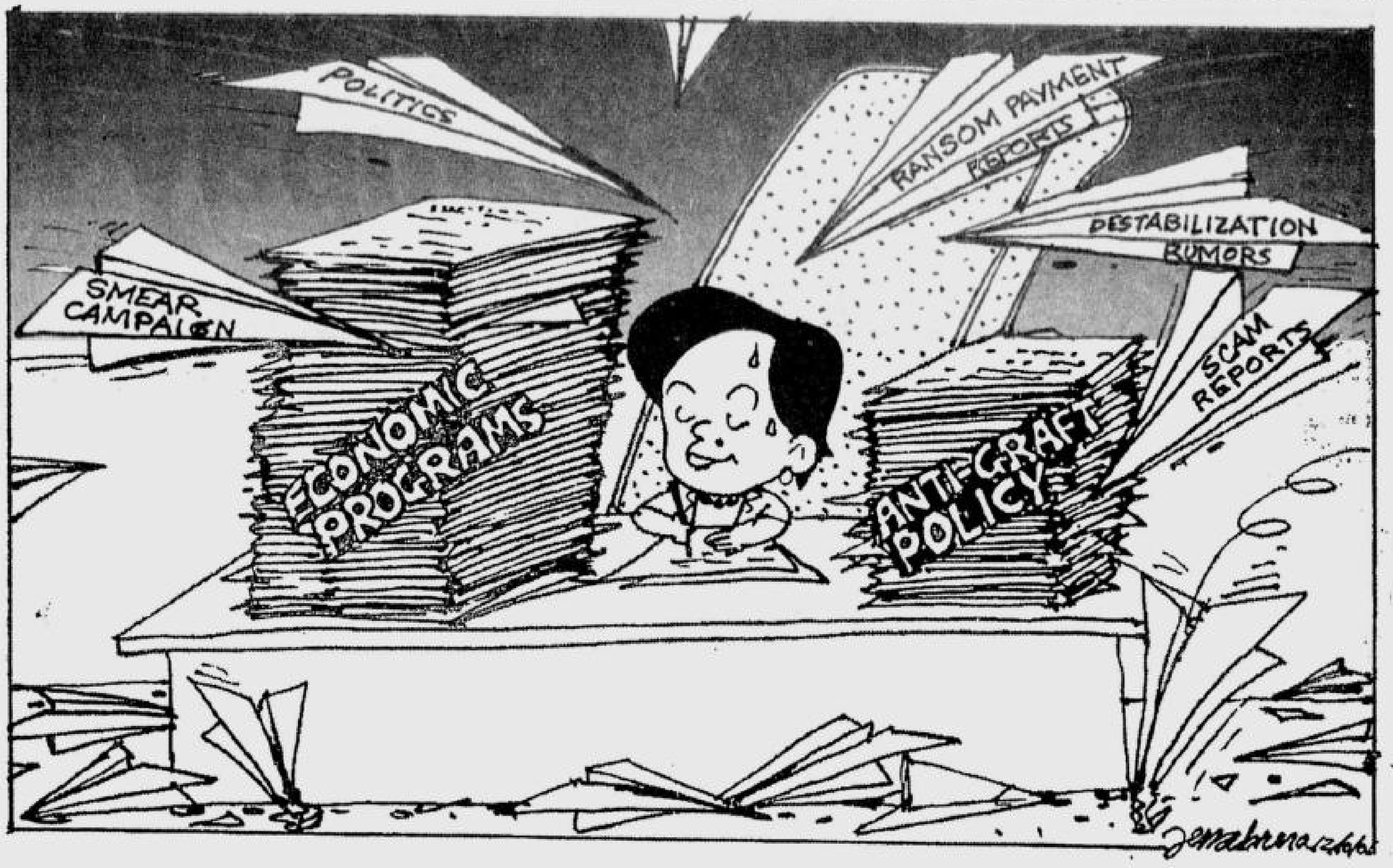

Jaworski's lament

THE CONTROVERSIAL businessman Pacifico Marcelo finally appeared before the Senate blue ribbon committee last Friday, to air his charges against the President, but the obvious partisanship that marked the eight-hour hearing focused public attention not on the accuser or the accused, but on the institution hearing the accusation.

EDITORIAL

At one point, opposition Sen. Robert Jaworski issued an anguished, typically inarticulate, but on-target appeal to his colleagues to drop the partisanship, to discover the truth of the allegations. He then said, apologetically, revealingly: "I am embarrassed to be in this Senate."

His lament merely reflected general public unease over the conduct of the hearing—or, to be more precise, on the way certain senators took an obviously partisan approach to Marcelo's testimony.

He was reacting to a specific series of questions that Sen. Renato Cayetano directed at Marcelo, by which Cayetano was able to establish two inconsequential facts. Jaworksi chided Cayetano, a lawyer, for making an issue out of the first and for spending too much time on the second. Cayetano correctly replied that he too was interested in the truth, and that each senator had his own way of discovering it.

But by then the damage had been done. If Jaworksi had a mind to, he could have included more specifics in his emotional outburst, including the following:

The prosecutorial chair. Sen. Joker Arroyo, the lion of the prosecution during the Estrada impeachment trial, was miscast as chair of the Senate's most prestigious committee. The reason was simple and easy enough to discern even during the hearing: Arroyo had not yet learned to trade his prosecutor's robes for a chair's gown. At one point, he even used his senatorial seatmates as props to outline Marcelo's claim and then to classify it (correctly, from where we sit) as "triple hearsay." But for any inquiry to be received as fair, the persons in charge must conduct themselves as a trial judge would: not only to be impartial, but to be *seen* as being impartial. Perhaps Arroyo already saw Marcelo's testimony as a tissue of lies and could not disguise his contempt for the sloppy way it was stitched together. Perhaps he did not want to spend any more time than necessary on yet another distraction from the true business of legislation. Whatever his reasons, he did the Senate no favors by failing to don a chair's cloak of neutrality.

The immoderate de facto leader. Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara is often described, even by this newspaper, as a force for moderation. In last Friday's hearing, however, the man even Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called the de facto leader of the opposition in the upper chamber followed a resolutely partisan line. Coming in late, he immediately clashed with Arroyo, putting political color into an arrangement—a one-minute limit on senators' questions about preliminary matters—that worked just fine before he came in. In another instance, he rebuked neophyte Sen. Noli de Castro for questioning his use of the new, five-minute limit. "Let's acquire some experience first, Noli," he said, albeit with a smile. When Arroyo called Marcelo's main allegation mere hearsay, Angara correctly admonished him for reaching a premature evaluation, but then he (incorrectly) offered an alternative interpretation of the facts as Marcelo alleged them. His repeated clashes with Arroyo were the true highlight of the hearing. It was left to Pimentel to offer the counsel of the moderate.

The over-helpful oppositionist. Sen. Panfilo Lacson had a chance to discover the truth behind Marcelo's allegations, but instead of pressing the businessman, he babied him. Lacson asked Marcelo if he was sure about the date of the meeting with the President (which he curiously did not include in his affidavit). When Marcelo said it was Aug. 18, Lacson gently suggested an alternative date, Aug. 16, which would have made Marcelo's narration of events more consistent. Marcelo, who apparently has met presidents and prime ministers enough times to be cavalier about his meeting in Malacañang, then accepted the new date.

The hearing had many more such touches, most senators asking questions as though truth were a matter of majority vote. Once, Angara chided Arroyo over yet another procedural issue: "We were not born yesterday." Well, neither were we.

Why is DPWH repairing streets that don't need repairs?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TELEVISION game shows being the fad now, let's play a game, too. Remember, this is only a game, but the prizes also run into millions of pesos.

Here's the first question:

If Mike Arroyo is "The Weakest Link" according to an SWS survey, what is President Macapagal's reply to Pacifico Marcelo's request?

Answer: "If the 'Price is Right.'"

Question What do you call the *"lugaw"* (rice gruel) cooked with rice allegedly smuggled here by Mike Arroyo?

Answer: Arroyo's *caldo.*

Question: What is the favorite game show of Philip Medel?

Answer: "Laban o Bawi."

Question: What is the favorite game show of politicians and their cronies?

Answer: "Wheel of Fortune"

Question: What is GMA's version of the Golden Rule for the pro-Erap opposition?

Answer: "Don't do to us what we did to you?"

Let's shift to the "Family Feud" type of game.

A survey was made of women's seven most common lies. Survey says:

"*Wala pa akong* boyfriend."—7
"Virgin *pa ako.*"—6
"First time *ko makapasok dito.*"—5
"Safe *ako ngayon.*"—4
"Oooh, *ang laki naman n'yan.*"—3
"Ang sarap pala."—2
"Ikaw ang ama nito."—1

(Reminder: The above is only a game and the questions and answers are only jokes and do not reflect the opinion of the writer and management.)

* * *

Back to more serious subjects.

There is nothing wrong with the concrete pavement of Tandang Sora, near the corner of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. I pass by there several times a day and it is in perfectly good condition to me. Yet it is being dug up to be cemented again, blocking traffic for several kilometers. In fact, it had been dug up and recemented at least thrice already within the last several months. This is the fourth redo.

A portion of Edsa, near the Kamuning market, is also being dug up to be cemented again. So are a part of the road going to Fairview and Imelda Avenue in Cainta. You must have noticed other streets in good condition being excavated for reconcreting and you must have wondered why we're wasting money by doing that. And why they are doing that at this time during the Christmas rush and obstructing traffic.

Here is the answer: The Department of Public Works and Highways must use up its budget before the end of the fiscal year, otherwise the unused money will revert to the General Fund. *Sayang naman*, is the general sentiment in the DPWH. Without projects, there would be no contracts to award to favorite contractors. And without contracts, the contractors would have no commissions to kick back to DPWH engineers.

But there are so many streets that urgently need repairs, so many uncompleted roads called "missing links" (like Congressional Avenue in Quezon City). Why not build and repair them first instead of wasting money on streets that don't need repairs?

I asked an insider in the DPWH and he said that the reason is with the regional chief engineer. Some engineers and contractors are more resourceful than others. Some regions have more money than others. Some regions have less streets to construct and repair, while others have more. That is why some regions have many unrepaired streets while others have streets in perfectly good condition dug up and repaired. Because of budgeting rules, money unused at yearend reverts back to the general fund. Worse, the budget of that particular department is reduced in the succeeding year. To prevent this, offices use up all their budget even on useless things before yearend. You must have noticed that there are many government seminars as the end of the year nears. That is to use up the balance of their budgets.

Why not transfer the funds from those who have an excess to those who don't have enough?

Again, the budgets of those offices who have excess funds may be reduced the following year for obvious reasons. And anyway, the regional chiefs or heads of offices will object, the reason being no project, no kickback. This is true, by the way, not only of DPWH but of all departments.

Billions of pesos are wasted every year on unnecessary projects while urgent projects (like the Congressional Avenue again) are put in the freezer because of this practice. The government has a perennial deficit (in fact, the deficit is getting bigger) and it is forever scrambling to raise more funds through new and higher taxes and by selling government assets. Yet it is wasting precious funds on unnecessary projects while at the same time neglecting urgent ones.

***Kawawa naman si* President Macapagal. She is like the head of the family working hard to earn enough to make both ends meet, only to have members of her family waste her meager earnings on luxury and other unnecessary goods.**

Obviously, government rules and practices have to be changed to stop this wanton waste of the people's money. The sooner the President initiates reforms, the better it would be for her government and the people, and the less burdensome would be her work.

The President is wasting too much time and energy answering every lie the opposition dishes out and preparing for her reelection in 2004. Just run the government well and rein in your greedy family members and subordinates, and the people will put you back in Malacañang. As you yourself said: I'll do my best, and God will do the rest.

Terrorists

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I KNEW we'd go overboard on this terrorism business. It was just a question of time. Now President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants the United States to classify Nur Misuari as a terrorist. Presumably because he has been consorting with the Abu Sayyaf.

At the very least, what makes this crazy is that the Malaysian government has made it very plain that if we want Misuari, we can have him. The ball, as the Malaysian foreign minister put it some weeks ago, is on our court. All we have to do is ask Malaysia to repatriate Misuari and it will do so. If we take him to be a terrorist, then the logical course would be to get him, try him and punish him—if we find him guilty of what we are accusing him of. The logical course would **not** be to tell the United States, "We have a terrorist who is now in the hands of Malaysia. Will you please take care of him"? What is this, *isumbong mo kay Tito* Sam?

No self-respecting government will do that. Only Pontius Pilate likes to wash his hands off a problem, and Lent is still far off. Before Lent, there is Christmas.

But more than this, all this business about reducing the world into terrorists and anti-terrorists, the good guys and the bad guys, won't make the war clouds in Muslim Mindanao disappear. It will make them loom more threateningly. I remember someone writing in Youngblood asking poignantly how Misuari can be reckless enough to lead his followers to the path of doom. But the real question is, why should his followers be heedless enough to follow him to the path of doom? The fact that a sizeable portion of the Moro National Liberation Front went along with Misuari—and, which is the real problem—continue to go along with him, must suggest that there are many Muslims who believe in the righteousness of his cause.

To put them on the same plane as the Abu Sayyaf is to ignore, deliberately or unwittingly, the glaring fact that the one is ideological while the other is merely criminal. You may not buy Misuari's contention that the government betrayed its own peace accord with the MNLF, signed in 1996 between Misuari and Fidel Ramos, which was presumably why he took up arms again. But a lot of Muslims do. You lump Misuari with the Abu Sayyaf, and you do only the Abu Sayyaf a service. Not the Muslims in Muslim Mindanao, not the citizens of the rest of this country.

The situation won't be helped by the fact that the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao now has a new governor. Parouk Hussin has little following in Muslim Mindanao, and was voted in controversial elections, one protested by half of the Comelec, one that registered a record low in voter turnout, and one that was marred by massive cheating. His capacity to unite the warring factions of the MNLF, to command the loyalty of his constituents, and to bring peace to that troubled spot of earth does not inspire much optimism.

The point is simple: Diplomacy and not war remains the best option in dealing with disparate political groups in Muslim Mindanao. Diplomacy is based on a careful and critical assessment of a situation, not on simplistic interpretations of, and knee-jerk reactions to, events.

But still more than this, you want to categorize an individual, or a group of people, as terrorists for consorting with terrorists, why pick on Misuari? Why not pick on the Southcom officials? Why not pick on the generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines?

What we have here in fact is a case of horrendous selective perception. For at the very time President Macapagal begged the United States to classify Misuari as a terrorist, Sen. Serge Osmeña had just made the mind-boggling revelation that he facilitated the delivery of ransom money for Reghis Romero, a good portion of which went to military officials. The contention that Misuari is dealing with the Abu Sayyaf is largely founded on rumor. The contention that military officials are conniving with the Abu Sayyaf is not. We have the word of a priest and a senator on that. Both are credible witnesses.

Osmeña in fact has merely corroborated the testimony of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that the military is not part of the solution, it is part of the problem. Specifically, its officials in the South benefit from the kidnappings, taking a cut in the ransom money, if not taking part in the operations themselves. Two things at least help to bolster the credibility of the witnesses.

One is that despite the massive operations the military has thrown in Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf continues to be free to terrorize victims. Which can only mean that the military is unable or unwilling to end their existence on earth. And two is that neither Nacorda nor Osmeña has a reason to lie. Nacorda is a priest and does not stand to profit from his revelations, he stands only to earn the eternal enmity of the military, a not very comfortable state to be in while in Basilan. Osmeña on the other hand is not a member of the so-called opposition, he is a member of Ms Macapagal's coalition. He has no reason to embarrass the government out of spite. His revelations constitute—to use a phrase much in vogue these days—friendly fire.

Osmeña says that, like a journalist protecting his sources, he would rather not name names. Ah, but that won't do at all. It is not a matter of option, it is a matter of obligation. A senator is not a journalist. And it is one thing to refuse to divulge the identities of a source of a story, it is quite another thing to do so the identity of a participant in a criminal activity. The first succeeds in preventing sources from being harmed, the second succeeds only in preventing wrongdoers from being punished.

Osmeña insists the President herself knew of the ransom payment for Romero and whom it was going to go to. If that can be proven to be true, shouldn't we call the President a terrorist too for colluding with the Abu Sayyaf?

GMA unwinds

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE INQUIRER had only one special guest at its 16th anniversary celebration last Saturday, Dec. 8, but to paraphrase former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the newspaper didn't need any other guest. It was auspicious for the reporters, columnists, editors led by their chief Letty Magsanoc, and officials led by board chair Marixi Prieto to have President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo come only with her security—no Bobby Tiglao or Noel Cabrera—for this time we got it all straight from the horse's mouth. GMA arrived past 9 p.m. and stayed up to nearly midnight, sipping from a glass of wine she nursed all evening, courtesy of columnist Mon Tulfo. At first she sat around with the reporters, and pretty soon the columnists joined in and before we knew it, the circle grew bigger and bigger. GMA appeared to be in the mood to talk—and talk; as is the case of all people at the pinnacle of power, a lonely post, GMA looked like she needed to unwind. She looked not a bit tired, but at some point Magsanoc motioned to the reporters to give the lady a break.

* * *

At first the reporters shot "light questions" at her, e.g., does she approve of Mikey's soon-to-be bride? Who's going to be the *ninongs* and *ninangs*? How does she want to be called by a grandchild? Does she mix her drinks? How often is she *ninang* at weddings, and does she have a new gown every time? ("Yes, as we know her family very well." "*Siguro si* Presidents Cory and Ramos." "Lola, I suppose." "Generally, I don't mix my drinks." "I'm *ninang* every week and I have a closet of gowns I keep interchanging. I don't have time to fuss over my clothes too much.") The President seemed to enjoy that "light" portion and I must confess that I enjoyed listening to all those details that I normally don't get to hear about.

But as the columnists sat in, the queries started getting tougher, but the bad news is that that portion she asked to be "off the record." Actually, it was my fault, for to coax her into loosening up on the tougher issues, I said it may even be off the record if she wished. That encouraged her to disclose so many things. City editor Gerry Lirio sat riveted by all the disclosures, and the big problem now of his staff is how to be able to use the mouthful GMA said, without violating the confidentiality aspect. Trust Lirio and his reporters to find a way.

* * *

Sen. Nene Pimentel wants GMA to be put on the witness stand as he claims that the allegation of Pacifico Marcelo remains "undisputed" and only she can counter it. I'm really disappointed in Pimentel. Never mind if the clamor comes from Sen. Teresa Oreta who can't go beyond being "intrigued" by the backdoor entry of Marcelo into Malacañang. Or if the clamor came from Sen. Edgardo Angara who is doubtless consumed by an intense passion against GMA, who had been a thorn at his side since their days in the Senate and the LDP. And who later trounced him in the vice-presidential race. Then too, both Oreta and Angara lost their positions of preeminence in the Erap regime, and Angara wants a hot issue to cover up the controversial Accra role in the coco levy.

* * *

But Pimentel is looked up to as a legal luminary and former law dean and martial law hero. He doubtless realizes that Marcelo's testimony couldn't stand up to his narration of facts in his affidavit; as the INQUIRER put it, he conceded that the President never asked him outright for majority control of his corporation. In addition, nine of Marcelo's former subordinates had turned against him and executed affidavits that declared that he had fabricated lies. With her *taray*, GMA can protect herself pretty well at the witness stand, but making her appear there to answer Marcelo's charges would demean the institution of the presidency.

If Pimentel wants to be sensible and fair, he ought to listen to his fellow oppositionist Sen. Serge Osmeña. At one point in the Senate marathon hearing, Osmeña said he couldn't for the life of him see why the President would try to get majority control of Marcelo's under-capitalized company, amid the already raging controversy over it in August, when it would have been simpler for her to just ask some dummies to form another company. I agree with Osmeña.

* * *

I watched Jarius Bondoc's TV special last Friday evening with Elisa Uy-Salapantan and former PNP Director General Roberto Lastimoso as guests. I had known Salapantan when we were both still unmarried decades ago, but we lost track of each other over the years as she lived abroad for a long time, until she resurfaced two years ago as an anti-Erap leader. Both she and Lastimoso are credible, which is why their revelation about Linda Montayre, the ex-nun secretary general of the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), is so fascinating. Montayre has been shooting allegations against the Arroyo couple in Malacañang one after another, but the problem is that there is no attempt to substantiate them.

Salapantan recounted that the PCA that she founded, which included three religious sisters and Montayre and her husband Nelson, was a very small, *ampao* organization that spun off from the old Pirma and eventually the Silent Protest Movement in Erap's time. She conceded, however, that the PCA's special talent was to be able to network with other existing organizations to make itself look like a formidable organization. But actually, she said, we were only about five people with a loose agenda and no money, that would meet in her house. "I should know, for I would be the one preparing the *merienda* or the lunch," Salapantan said.

* * *

Lastimoso laughingly recalled how Salapantan recruited him into the PCA and how, thinking it was a big organization, he recruited to its Club Filipino forum last year a number of retired generals. Salapantan recalled that their loose organization had no rankings, so that it came as a complete surprise that Montayre and former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez had arrogated the titles of secretary general and chair of the PCA, respectively; without the approval of the other members. Salapantan stressed that the PCA initially successfully pursued the causes of anti-narco-politics and anti-Estrada; in the early months of GMA, they aspired to be a watchdog of the new administration. But after the ouster of Montayre's husband from the PCSO, she narrated, a fact that the former kept secret from the group, Montayre began pursing a vicious personal campaign against the administration; the problem, however, said Salapantan, was that she never consulted her colleagues about her tirades, contrary to their consensual nature.

In October 2001, Salapantan and Lastimoso resigned from the PCA as convenors and in their letters to Montayre, whom they arbitrarily addressed as "executive director" of the PCA, for lack of a title, they cited her failure to consult them. We didn't want her to use us or the PCA, says Salapantan, adding that the way her former colleague is now shooting off accusations versus the President, she "ought to see a psychiatrist."

'Editorialized' news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

HEADLINES are meant to give the readers a bird's eye view of news reports. Coming up with a headline that can catch the reader's attention without exceeding the available space requires a certain skill that is gained only through years of exposure to editorial work.

A reader, who is a pediatrician by profession, expressed his disappointment with a news report that appeared in the Nov. 20 issue of the INQUIRER. The headline read "Oops! Wrong Virus." The report stated that Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit corrected his earlier pronouncement that the flu virus that hit some Metro Manila schools in early October was type A influenza.

Dayrit explained that after a closer examination of the samples taken from the throats of some of the affected students, the health department concluded that the virus was type B, not type A, influenza. He said this finding will have implications on the vaccine that the schools will use in the future to prevent a recurrence of the illness.

The reader wrote: "I think the title was handled with malice. To my dismay, the first sentence even showed more mockery 'Oops, they did it again.' This is not in defense of the co-doctors because they obvibusly did a significant mistake in reporting the type of influenza virus that hit the schools.

"It could have been more objective by just reporting the mistake that the DOH admitted in a professional manner. But then again, the writer, with the blessings of the editor, thought it completely acceptable to have this news report in a 'smart alecky' manner.

"This was not even amusing. If the editors really wanted to inform the people about the apparently grievous mistake, a direct objective news is all that is needed. The thinking readers can make their own remarks from the direct news reporting.

"Another thing I want to clarify is, what do you mean by 'they did it again?' I read the item several times and I can't understand what it means. Did Dayrit report a wrong info a few days ago, or did they commit the same mistake and when? About what? Please put the editorialization (if ever there is such a word) in the places where they belong, not in the news."

Journalistic style

The editor in chief explained that there was no malice in the headline in question. It was written in a flippant or humorous way to soften the "heavy" headlines that hogged the newspaper during the preceding days.

It will be recalled that when the influenza virus hit some Metro Manila schools, the anthrax scare in the United States was at its peak and there were fears that the influenza virus was linked to terrorist activities by foreign elements.

She described the unconventional headline as part of the INQUIRER's style of news reporting. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, the editors come up with headlines or news teasers that are either irreverent, unorthodox or out of the ordinary. The idea is to give the readers a break, once in a while, from the traditional way headlines are written.

With regard to the complaint of "editorialization," the editor in chief said the portion of the news report referred to is too minimal to affect the overall objective reporting of the statement of the health secretary. She reiterated her earlier explanation that this kind of news presentation is part of the INQUIRER's journalism style.

Evaluation

I agree with the editor in chief's statement that the headline was done in good faith. It was not meant to put the health secretary in a bad light. True, it is unusual to see the word "oops" in headlines, as most newspapers tend to be formal or conservative in crafting the heads of news reports.

By tradition, newspapers create their own images or styles depending on the niche market they want to develop or cater to. Editors are known for strong pride in their work and nothing would make them happiest than to come up with newspapers that set them apart from the rest of the pack. And, most importantly, sell.

If you examine closely the major broadsheets in the country, you will notice that none of them is similar in format, style or presentation to the others. The font used, number of columns, layout and headline arrangement vary depending on the orientation or training of the editorial staff.

Clearly, the INQUIRER has opted to be unorthodox in the way it presents its headlines. It has veered away from the headlines of old that meet the standards of newspapers in decades past which many readers now consider as either too formal or unappealing.

Surely, a touch of flippancy or irreverence in the headlines, once in a while, will not harm. It is a welcome respite from the usual stuff the readers get in their daily newspaper reading.

But with regard to the use of the words "Oops, they did it again" as the introductory sentence of the subject news, I think the reader was right in complaining that it had no place in the report. Just what mistake had been committed earlier by the health secretary to justify the use of those words? None. The article was silent on this point.

The news was limited to the admission by Dayrit that the influenza virus that hit the students was type B and not type A as previously announced. Outside of the backgrounder used to support that admission, the story (which consisted of six one-sentence paragraphs) was limited to that error in identification.

The "they did it again" phrase could have been deleted from the report without affecting the substance of the news report. It was an "editorialization" of the news that appears to have gone a little astray.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The Ilagan Doctrine

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

"ALLERGIC *yata ako sa gobyerno,*" lawyer Laurente "Larry" Ilagan said in jest to Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo when the two former Marcos-era political detainees met last Sept. 10 during the latter's courtesy call to Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. Ilagan was reacting to Ocampo's comment that he appeared to be losing weight and sickly. Both laughed. Apparently, the irony of their transformations did not escape them: Ilagan was the newly appointed city legal officer of Davao City—his first ever public office, despite several offers given him after the Edsa Revolution; while Ocampo, from a former National Democratic Front spokesperson to a party-list representative in Congress.

"*Ingat ka rin* Satur, *mahirap 'tong napasukan natin,*" Ilagan further told Ocampo.

But, apart from personally meeting Ocampo that day, Ilagan had another thing in mind. Earlier, he told me in confidence that he will tender his resignation as city legal officer after Ocampo's courtesy call.

"Why so soon?" I asked. "Health reasons, *'parts,*" was his curt reply. I did not press for details. After knowing Ilagan in various capacities—as a frat brod, mentor, law firm senior partner, fellow street parliamentarian, *ninong*, beer-drinking mate and "*bosing*" in the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), I knew he was not wont to discuss details about his health condition.

His resignation was not accepted by Mayor Duterte, his long-time friend, who advised him to just take a leave.

Only a few weeks before, he told his coffee cronies that he was taking medications for tuberculosis. He discovered it after taking a medical exam—also, his first in many years—as a requirement for his appointment.

"It's curable then," was our joint verdict. But, soon after, Ilagan started to miss our daily morning coffee group.

However, on Oct. 9, during a FLAG meeting, Ilagan briefly appeared and announced that he already resigned as FLAG regional coordinator due to his appointment as city legal officer. But, he added, he would also resign from his city hall job: a thorough check-up confirmed that he had lung cancer.

The doctors gave him six months. Chemotherapy was an option, he said.

Instead, he opted for an "alternative medication" by changing his diet, taking mainly organic food. A few minutes after, he excused himself explaining to his dumbfounded colleagues: "*May* daily ritual *akong sinusunod*. Goodbye *mga 'parts!* I can no longer join you!"

The meeting proved to be Ilagan's last for FLAG, which he also served as its national vice president. On Nov. 15, at 12:20 p.m., he succumbed to his illness, surrounded by his wife Luz (a women's rights advocate and former city councilor) and four children.

"I am ready. *Tapos na ang* mission *ko sa buhay,*" were his last words to his eldest son, Andy.

"He was a great loss," was the collective sentiment of those who knew Ilagan, 55.

"You were not just a lawyer, Larry, you were a great lawyer," said Cookie Diokno, who read the FLAG statement during his burial on Nov. 18.

"No eulogy, no march can ever honor you, sincerely enough, solemnly enough. No eulogy can ever motivate us to work for social change; it was through your example and integrity that many followed in your footsteps," said Bayan in its eulogy, read by Joel Virador of Karapatan.

As a corporate lawyer during the martial law era, Ilagan was among the first in Davao to openly challenge the Marcos dictatorship. His "conversion" to "relevant lawyering" started when he handled human rights cases as head of the legal aid committee of the local Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

"That was when I heard the problems of peasants, workers and natives against land-grabbing, exploitation...That was when I comprehended what justice was and what justice should be. I began entertaining clients of all sorts until the crackdown on the so-called rebels. I had to understand the reasons why they turned rebels and given the facts and figures, I asked myself: Is the government against the people? Is the government being used by the ruling elite to perpetuate their economic base? That was my turning point," Ilagan told the INQUIRER in a May 10, 1997 interview.

Being at the forefront of the anti-dictatorship struggle, he was tagged as "subversive" by the dictatorship. While serving as Bayan-Mindanaw chair, he was arrested on May 10, 1985 by virtue of a Preventive Detention Action. Later, he was joined in detention by two other Davao human rights lawyers: Antonio Arellano (now regional state prosecutor for Region 10) and Marcos Risonar (now the provincial assessor of Davao del Sur).

In February 1986, while on a weekend pass, the plan of the "Davao Three" to escape and join the underground was overtaken by the Edsa Revolution. Their arrest is now known in jurisprudence as the "Ilagan Doctrine" and reported in 139 Supreme Court Reports Annotated 349. After their release, Ilagan went back to private law practice.

"I am more effective outside the system," he justified then. He, however, served as legal counsel for the local NDF in the failed peace talks during the Aquino administration.

In 1997, he was elected as president of the IBP-Davao City chapter.

Ilagan once said: "So you choose to become lawyers. I want you to determine for yourself if you want to be a lawyer because you want to be rich or because you want to serve the ends of justice. There's nothing in between."

In his honor, FLAG will launch on Dec. 12 the "Laurente C. Ilagan Lecture Series on Human Rights" at the Grand Men Seng Hotel.

"Tatang Larry is gone. Long Live Tatang Larry!"

* * *

Comments may be e-mailed to karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo. com

Ostrich pizza, or, who's afraid of globalization?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

NATIONALISTS, everywhere in the world, are reeling from globalization, for they do not know what to make of it, and worse, what to do about it. It is akin to the way that the poet, Pablo Neruda, used to describe our own recalcitrant, but ultimately futile attitude toward death.

Well, it's true. There are likely to be far fewer truly independent nations at the end of this century than in the last one, just as there were far fewer truly independent ethnic tribes in the last century than in the previous one. The first that will effectively cease to exist as true nation-states, will be dysfunctional, uncompetitive, unproductive countries like ours that are choking on puerile politicians who can never see beyond the next election. We are destined for digestion and assimilation unless a Heimlich maneuver is done.

Of course, the Filipino nation itself is an amalgam of originally separate existences as Tagalogs, Kapampangans, Ilokanos, Bisayans, etc. But except for one or two extremist Cebuano fundamentalists, no one would describe the nation as an expression of Tagalog or Pampango nationalism, would they? Well maybe they would, but then I shall leave the nationalists to argue with them, since my conversation is with nationalists about globalism.

Globalization is inexorable. The signs are everywhere. Hard as it is to imagine old enemies uniting, the European Union, may yet evolve into a United States of Europe, as national barriers fall by the wayside. They already have a common money, and if their common interests become permanent, so may their union. A common market is usually the basis of a common country, and maybe a common world.

The nice thing about the regional unification process in Europe is that it is deliberate and consensual, even if they fight toothache and toenail over every step. But not all regional adjustments to an emergent new global system are likely to be so benign or painless. China is an awakened dragon, in case you haven't noticed. We cannot forge an economic strategy that ignores the tidal wave of goods, both industrial and agricultural, that China is capable of exporting to the world, now that she has become a full-fledged member of the World Trade Organization.

A defensive, resentful economic strategy that is premised on the quaint notion of "safety nets" may win points with a fearful public for those that propose them. But I think it is ultimately a grand disservice to give people false hope in doomed conceptions. An ostrich can stick its head into a hole in the middle of the road, but tragically, it will still become road pizza. In the hope of protecting the poor, we may only be dooming them by forcing the economy into evolutionary dead ends. This only protects the reactionary rich who own and still benefit from sunset industries that cannot survive foreign competition. By protecting indefensible aspects of our economy, we are only compromising the future and delaying the adoption of the means by which we cannot only survive, but prosper.

We should take special notice that China is at the leading edge of development in the arena of genetically modified food crops, which it is successfully using to ensure its domestic food security. This is on top of a vibrant conventional agronomy that is the envy of the region. China's strategic rice reserves are said to amount to a whole year's consumption by the entire population. China leads the world in developing and using biotechnology to boost agricultural productivity. It is slashing costs and reducing impacts to the environment by reducing the need for pesticides and herbicides. It is reporting miraculous yields in many food crops through the introduction of novel strains and varieties. It has read and understood the diary of Japan's Meiji Restoration, which allowed Japan to build its strength on Western science.

China will soon also be cloning its best cows, chickens, pigs and other livestock, in a move that will allow its population to move up the food chain, as well as the international economic ladder. The most successful efforts of China's animal husbandry are assured of market domination by genetic xeroxing. Within the decade, China will be the United States' most formidable competitor as a supplier of food to the world and should surpass it soon thereafter with its vast and highly competitive work force. No more is Los Baños the land of miracles.

Here in the Philippines, radical environmentalists from Europe, and their misguided local supporters, have effectively stymied the Philippines from competing in this revolutionary new arena. This is in spite of our world-class intellectual resources and the biological diversity of the archipelago, which together form a natural laboratory for a modern and competitive agriculture, pharmaceutical industries and biotech businesses in general. It may be too late, by the time these people tire of the Philippines as a launching pad for their obscurantist campaigns based on pseudoscientific claptrap, which have nothing to do with technology or ethics. The radical environmental fringe rides on people's genuine concerns for their surroundings in order to advance an ill-disguised political agenda against the usual suspects—those evil multinational companies who want to feed the world by innovation and yet expect to make money at it.

In our brave Darwinian world, the best defense is a good offense. The smart thing to do is to carefully pick our battles and their circumstances, as the Chinese Sun Tzu suggests, so that the chances of winning are optimized. This may force a painful abandonment of large areas of economic endeavor where we cannot hope to compete, but for better pastures. To have a secure place at the global table, we must be useful to the rest of the world by being better than most, or even the best, at supplying something to everyone else. Anything but the mediocre.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Ouster of career official

WHEN Joseph Estrada became President, he appointed lawyer Carina Demaisip as chief public defender of the Public Defender's Office on July 1, 1998, replacing lawyer Josefina Bacal whom he appointed as PDO regional director. But instead of obeying the President's wishes, Bacal, who was an appointee of President Fidel Ramos, refused to vacate her post.

On July 17, 1998, she filed directly a petition for quo warranto before the Supreme Court and asked for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order to stop Estrada from ousting her. Named respondents in Bacal's suit were Demaisip, Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas and Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

Bacal, a career executive service officer III, argued that since the position in dispute was a career service position, the Constitution and other laws protect her tenure as chief public defender.

Demaisip, who took her oath of office on July 7, is not a career service official. She was a former prosecutor under the now defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission once headed by Estrada.

The SC dismissed the petition on a technicality but without prejudice to its refiling in the Court of Appeals.

On March 29, 1999, the CA found Bacal to be lawfully entitled to the office of the chief public defender. The respondents moved for a reconsideration but the CA denied it on July 22. The respondents then filed a petition for review with the SC.

The SC, in a decision dated Dec. 6, 2000, reversed the decision of the CA and dismissed Bacal's petition. The SC ruled that permanent appointments for positions belonging to the Career Service must meet all the requirements for the position including the appropriate eligibility prescribed. It reasoned out that since the position of chief public defender requires a Ceso rank level I, the appointment of Bacal, with a lower Ceso rank level III, was merely temporary. Thus, her transfer as regional director, which corresponds to her Ceso rank, is not a demotion or a violation of the security of tenure guarantee of the Constitution.

Case status: Bacal filed a motion for reconsideration on Jan. 6, 2001. The SC, however, in a minute resolution dated June 19, 2001 denied her motion. Bacal presently is the PDO regional director for Region 10. Demaisip was replaced as chief public defender shortly after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President.

Ray Leyesa, PDI Research Department

Misdirected spending of pork funds

I THOUGHT lawmakers are already discouraged from spending their precious pork barrel funds on low priority projects like basketball courts, waiting sheds, etc. But in Barangay Napindan, Taguig, the word is out since last week that the offices of Sen. Rene Cayetano and his son, Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, are behind efforts to build a roof over a decades-old basketball court known locally as Plaza Amang Rodriguez. In fact, as of this writing, excavation work has already begun along one side of the court, apparently for the structure's steel foundations.

But while it is already fiscally questionable to spend congressional pork this way, the very idea of "covering" the old, open-air court is aesthetically unsound as far as urban planning goes. It will obscure the façade of the Aglipayan Church that stands about 15 to 20 yards behind one of the goal posts. It will be like transferring the Cuneta Astrodome right in front of the Manila Cathedral.

Since time immemorial, the plaza and the adjacent church have served as the main, and now the only remaining "public space" for Napindan residents. Aside from being used for summer basketball and volleyball tournaments, the plaza is where the traditional Senakulo plays are staged in Lent, and where the *karosas, sagalas*, and brass bands assemble for the Santakrusan, fiestas and other village traditions. Something is lost when you spend public money just to protect these innately outdoor traditions (dying as they are in this day and age) from the rain, and just to protect aspiring Michael Jordans from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

But of course, the basketball court in its current condition needs some improvement. The floor masonry has already worn out that the under-layer of gravel has begun to show. The spectators' row at the sidelines needs repainting and the lighting system also needs some repairs. These can be done without sacrificing a good, enduring symmetrical view of a church façade and the open space fronting it. Let athletes bake in the sun. Let processions and parade organizers worry about the rain. Let the Senakulo chants echo freely throughout the village in the hot Lenten nights, instead of being warped in bad acoustics inside a steel stadium. For aren't they all supposed to?—**A CONCERNED RESIDENT, Barangay Napindan, Taguig, Metro Manila**

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Pay attention to domestic violence

THE SUICIDE of former movie actress and beauty titlist Maria Teresa Carlson once more exposed the tragic plight of the battered woman whose broken spirit can no longer sustain the will to survive and move on.

Carlson's tragic death once again brings to the fore the issue of domestic violence. Her fate gave a face to the silent pandemic, and for once, public attention must be given to the plight of the countless women and girls in the country suffering from the long-lasting effects of abuse within the home and among families.

In the Philippines alone, government records show that for the first half of this year alone, already 6,697 cases of gender-based violence were reported. Of these, 58 percent were physical injuries caused by wife-mauling and battering.

As communities of women worldwide commemorate the "16 days of activism to end violence against women" (Nov. 26-Dec. 10), let us reflect on Carlson's plight on the violence in our own lives and how it affects the people around us.

Let us resolve to campaign to end violence in all spheres of our lives, be it in our own homes or in our communities and the entire world at large.

Let us be together in challenging the root cause of gender-based violence in the socially constructed norms that promote and condone violent attitudes and behavior, especially in men.—**TERESA BANAYNAL FERNANDEZ, chair, Women's Action Network for Development, 10 Makadiyos St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

Not up to the teaching profession

IT would be easy to dismiss former Ateneo Grade School teacher Mark M. Imbong's piece titled, "Opening doors" (Youngblood, 12/6/01) as the incoherent ramblings of a vary tormented soul. His first and final sentences are logically inconsistent, and he alternately shifts gears throughout the piece from bashing to endorsing the teaching profession.

Having two sons at the Ateneo, however, I was thoroughly appalled by his characterization of students as "those hyperactive, irritating little people who can't wait to grow up, but still end up like they have been in kindergarten the past five or six years." I wonder what doors he thinks he opened for students with such an attitude so patently inconsistent with the Jesuit philosophy of *cura personalis*—the idea that learning is advanced by the personal care and concern of teachers for their students. Why he stayed or was allowed to stay at the Ateneo for four years to inflict himself on his students is extremely disconcerting.

In a broader context, I think that this is a wake-up call for school authorities to look more closely at the implementation of the basic Jesuit education they wish to impart. Although my sons have always had the good fortune of having caring teachers, quicker ways to discern those who are truly called to the profession of teaching from those who are simply "unfortunately drawn" into it need to be found. The responsibility of forming young boys to be "men for others" is too great a task to leave in the hands of even a few who are not up to snuff.

As we all search to find meaning in our lives, I can only hope that having shut the door on the teaching profession, Imbong will find a more meaningful existence in the sales and marketing department of the giant food company he has joined, where he may reasonably expect the wage to be equal to the disutility of work.—**MARIA SOCORRO GOCHOCO-BAUTISTA, professor, School of Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Politics in the DENR

FIRST of all, I thank Neal H. Cruz for giving me the chance to issue a statement in your Nov. 27 issue.

For the past few weeks, many issues have already come out regarding the allegation of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez against me for allowing "over-importation" of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in our country. As I have stated in the past, the truth is, I did not allow such a thing.

For the benefit of the general public, allow me to try to discuss this in a different way.

There exists a Montreal Protocol, which the Philippines is a signatory of, that deals with the phaseout of ozone depleting substances (ODS) worldwide. Examples of these ODS are CFCs like the refrigerants used for the air conditioners of our cars and homes. The protocol requires the participating country to accomplish the phaseout by percentages by certain years depending on the ODS substance. For example, Freon 12 is scheduled to be phased out starting from year 1999 to 2011, each year reduced by an average of 10 percent.

In January 2000, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a department administrative order (DAO) that dictates the guidelines for implementing the phaseout. Prior to this, there was no such guideline to follow and only a group of seven importers of Freon 11 and 12 were servicing the whole country. Definitely, this group could not serve the requirements of the whole nation that's why there were a number of reported entries of such refrigerants that did not pass through the records of the Environment Management Bureau. One of the things that the DAO accomplished was to not just limit the importation to a limited number but also more importantly, set a baseline figure that is accurate. Accurate meaning reflecting the real requirements. Only by having correct baseline figures can the country implement a truly successful phase-out program.

Now, what Alvarez has been insisting is that this should not have been the case and that the DENR should resort to the old way. For what real reason, I do not know. It's clear in the DAO what should be done. On my part, it would have been wrong if I did not implement what the DAO stated.

Recently, a press release was issued by the current EMB director, Julian Amador, supporting Alvarez's claim. This astounded me because being an EMB director, he is supposedly a technical person and would never issue such an inaccurate and highly political statement. He is also a member of the committee hearing the case and therefore should never show any form of bias. He could not be reckless enough to do it. Reliable sources from inside the DENR confirm that Alvarez just forced the poor director to sign the press release against his will. Of course the guy cannot cannot say no. After all, Alvarez appointed him. All I can say is that all the statements are untrue and unfounded and that's probably why Alvarez had to ask Amador to sign.

That is why I also want to bring out in this letter the politics that exists in the DENR right now. It's like a puppet show where the participants are not necessarily willing to do what they are asked to. The DENR should be run professionally and should try to solve the technical issues rather than waste time or deal in political matters. With this kind of administration, I pity not just the DENR career officials but also more especially, our environment.—**PETER ANTHONY A. ABAYA, director IV, Environment Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

Increase the budget for education

THE PROPOSAL of Sen. Blas Ople to rechannel P40 billion of debt payment allocated in the national budget to education and infrastructure projects must be seriously considered by the government. This would not substantially diminish the share of foreign debt-servicing in the government's expenses but at least the people would benefit a little from the increased funding for education.

However, it must be pointed out that the education budget still remains inadequate to reverse the present trend in our deteriorating school system. The crisis in education has already reached alarming proportions that it is imperative for the government to invest heavily in education to make it a big factor in the country's development.

Ople's proposal underscored the fact that the priority of the government is skewed in favor of foreign banks and credit agencies. It is entirely unacceptable to give foreign debt payment the highest allocation in the national budget while the majority of our countrymen wallow in extreme poverty and ignorance.

The senator was right in pointing out that the budget of the Macapagal administration should focus more on anti-poverty programs. It is our contention that when we prioritize education, we are actually eliminating one of the roots of poverty in the country, which is ignorance. Therefore, if the government will continue to maintain low funding for education, it will be powerless in addressing the economic problems we are facing today.

The P40 billion to be taken away from debt-servicing must only be the initial step of the government to correct its wrong budgetary priorities. We expect our leaders will agree with our position on the matter and immediately begin to increase the share of education in the national budget.—**RAYMOND PALATINO, national president, National Union of Students of the Philippines, 13 San Vicente, SFDM, Quezon City**

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Where's the water?

EARLY this year, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) did some diggings on the national road in Barrio Talon, Las Piñas City, for the laying of giant pipes to provide water in the area. In anticipation of water supply, the residents of the area were happy about the work, despite the inconvenience brought about by the deep excavations.

The diggings and laying of the giant pipes were finished and the dug areas were restored to their previous conditions months ago. As the year is about to end, however, the residents of the area have to ask : "Where is the water?"

In fact, their houses have not been connected with pipes to the giant pipes.

We are known to be patient and forbearing people. The residents of the area, therefore, have not lost hope that the much-awaited water would come to them some time in the future.—**FACUNDO S. TALLO, 8 North 1st St., Angela Village, Talon, Las Piñas City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

90 percent in WTC towers escaped death, officials say

NEW YORK—With the World Trade Center death toll shrinking to somewhere around 3,000, many hesitate to speak of a miracle or a success. But those are the words they are using when they remember that thousands of others got out alive before the towers collapsed.

Many officials say the loss of life would have been many times higher if not for three factors: the timing of the attack, before the buildings had filled to their usual workday peak; emergency-evacuation improvements prompted by the 1993 terrorist bombing of the trade center; and the urgent reaction of workers, many of whom had been through the earlier attack.

On Sept. 11, perhaps 18,000 people by one estimate evacuated the two 110-story towers in less than two hours.

"It looks like maybe 90 percent of the people in the buildings survived that day. It's amazing," said Alan Reiss, the trade center's former director.

Reiss and others do not discount the devastation of the terrorist attack or the grief felt by the families of the dead.

Yet in the initial hours after the attack, many feared that tens of thousands had been killed. Even weeks later, city officials estimated nearly 7,000 people had lost their lives.

After fixing errors and removing duplicate names from the casualty lists, city officials say the death toll stands at about 3,000 and may drop further. The figure includes about 500 people who were not in the towers at the time of the attacks—rescue workers who entered afterward and the people aboard the hijacked planes.

"Three-thousand people died, and one has a hard time saying anything about it is a success," said Michael Cherkasky, president of Kroll Associates, a security company that helped the trade center's owner, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, revamp evacuation procedures after the 1993 bombing.

"Having said that, it is a remarkable story from the perspective of how the Port Authority was able to organize itself—the success it had in evacuating the building in comparison to '93, and the heroic efforts of the police and fire."

In 1993, it took six hours to evacuate most of the occupants of the trade center after terrorists detonated a bomb in an underground garage, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000.

This time, there were some missteps, such as conflicting announcements over when and whether to evacuate. But the evacuation time was reduced by several hours.

The time of day was a factor, too.

Just before lunchtime on a typical work day, the towers would have held about 50,000 people, said Reiss, who was at the trade center on Sept. 11, helping with the transition to a new management.

Reiss estimated just 20,000 people were at the trade center when an airliner smashed into the north tower at 8:48 a.m. The south tower was hit just after 9 a.m. The south tower collapsed in less than hour, at 9:55; the north tower at 10:29.

During the 1993 evacuation, workers crammed into pitch-black exit stairways, bumping into walls and each other in the smoky darkness.

"It took a very, very long time to get down, back in those days," said Robert Davidson, who worked on the 73rd floor of the north tower as chief architect for the Port Authority. "As you moved down the stairs you went about half a flight and stopped for while. That was the trip all the way down." *AP*

'N. Korea is no Afghanistan,' Pyongyang warns

SEOUL—North Korea on Sunday accused the United States of marking out the Stalinist state as the target for a second US war against terrorism and said its people should be ready to "lay down their lives" for their country.

Rodong Sinmun, the North's ruling communist party newspaper, also demanded Washington stop pressing Pyongyang to accept an outside inspection of its missile and nuclear development programs.

"The US designation of the DPRK (North Korea) as the target of the post-Afghanistan war operation compels the Korean people to be in full combat preparedness to lay down their lives for the country," it said.

The daily accused the United States of refusing to drop the North from a list of states sponsoring terrorism to "provoke a war" on the Korean peninsula.

"The DPRK is not Afghanistan. The DPRK is ready for defense and attack," it warned.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the North's propaganda machine has stepped up anti-US rethoric, reflecting its harder stance against Washington.

US President George W. Bush proposed new talks with the North in June to include cuts in its 1.2-million-strong armed forces.

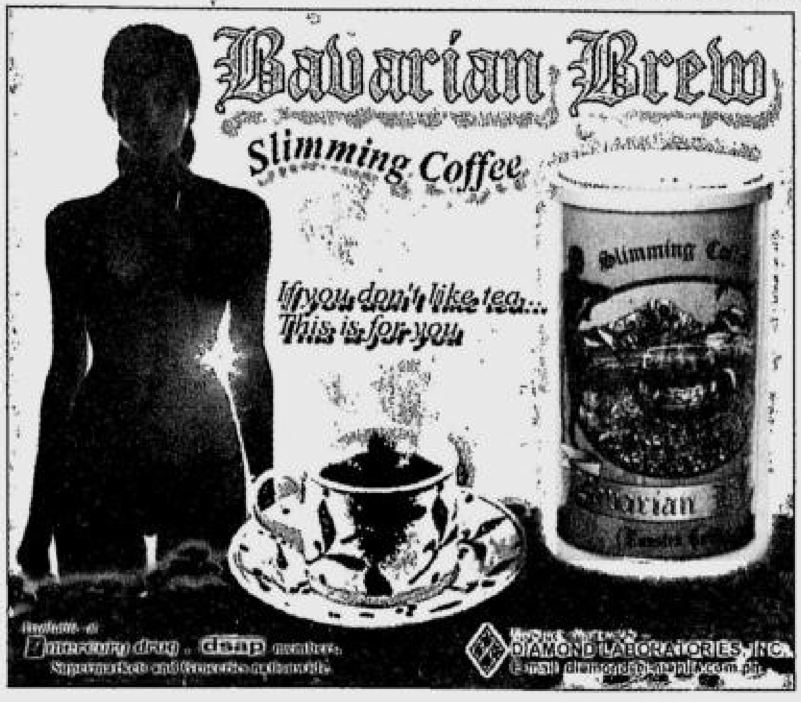
On Nov. 26, Bush called on North Korea to permit foreign inspectors to verify that it is not producing weapons of mass destruction, and warned Pyongyang to halt foreign missile sales.

But North Korea has rejected Washington's calls for dialogue and inspection.

In a commentary on Saturday, the North's second official daily, Minju Joson, accused Washington of staging a "shameless smear campaign designed to invent a pretext for a war of aggression" against the North.

"Choice is not a monopoly of the United States. The DPRK has the right to choose and is strong enough to exercise its right to the full," Minju said.

The Korean peninsula is the world's last Cold War frontier with an uneasy truce in place since the Korean War of 1950-53. *AFP*



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Failed Haifa suicide bomber shot dead by Israeli police

JERUSALEM—Israeli police on Sunday shot dead a Palestinian suicide bomber who survived his own blast and slightly injured around 22 people in a Haifa bus station, just hours after Israeli troops killed four Palestinian police officers in the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority swiftly issued a condemnation of the attack in the northern Israeli town.

Israel warned of a "hard" response to the latest in a spate of suicide bombings which have kept the Jewish state on a knife edge, despite a week of Israeli air raids on Palestinian security centers which the Jewish state says are meant to force the Palestinians to arrest Islamic extremists.

F-16 fighter bombers were circling over Gaza City, the main target of recent air strikes, an AFP correspondent said.

Haifa's bomber blew himself up after two Israeli police accosted him, preventing a much more serious attack, police officials said.

"The terrorist was killed after blowing himself up by two policemen who saw that he was still alive. They fired at him and killed him," Haifa police chief Yaakov Borovski said.

"They saw him make a movement with his hand and feared he was going to try to set off another explosion," he added.

Police found what they initially though was a second device and defused it. They later announced that it was part of the first bomb in a bag close to the suicide bomber.

Twenty-two people were hurt, most sustaining only minor injuries or being treated for shock, in the attack.

Many of those using the bus station on Sunday morning were soldiers returning to their bases after the Jewish sabbath, the day of rest.

Borovski said the bomber had been planning to board a bus.

Fifteen people were killed on Dec. 2 when a suicide bomber from the hardline Islamic group Hamas detonated explosives strapped to his body on board a bus in Haifa.

That attack came just 12 hours after 10 young Israelis were killed by two Hamas suicide bombers in central Jerusalem.

The wave of suicide strikes have provoked a massive response from Israel, which has sent helicopter gunships and warplanes to level Palestinian security buildings and property belonging to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Israel says the repeated strikes are aimed at forcing the veteran leader into arresting militants.

Arafat has arrested more than 180 militants, including 17 on a list of 36 top suspects submitted by Israel via US special envoy Anthony Zinni.

However, Israel has accused him of not doing enough to prevent the suicide attacks.

On Thursday a militant from Islamic Jihad, a smaller radical group with the same aims as Hamas, blew himself up in front of an international hotel in Jerusalem, slightly injuring three people.

Despite joint security talks brokered by Zinni that aimed to defuse one of the worst crises of the 14-month intifada, or Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, the killing has continued apace. *AFP*

AN ISRAELI soldier loads rubber-coated steel bullets into his rifle before firing at Palestinian stone-throwers during small-scale clashes near Jerusalem Dec. 8.

AP

SAMSUNG gives you two good reasons why your side-by-side refrigerator should have a twin cooling system.

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8 would-be refugees found dead in Ireland

DUBLIN, Ireland—An Irish trucker discovered the bodies of eight would-be refugees and five people clinging to life in his cargo Saturday, and police vowed to mount a Europe-wide hunt for the human traffickers believed responsible.

It was the first mass fatality involving asylum-seekers in Ireland, which in recent years has been targeted by rings that smuggle people from poorer countries. Police said they weren't sure yet of the victims' nationality but were interviewing a 17-year-old survivor who spoke Turkish. Among the dead were three small children.

The deaths highlighted the great risks that many people run in their efforts to evade police to enter Western European countries illegally. Like others, Ireland has tightened its security at ports of entry and toughened deportation laws to try to stem the human tide.

"Those involved in the cruel trade of trafficking in human beings have perpetrated yet another atrocity on the victims of their greed," said Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

Last year, 58 Chinese people were found suffocated in the back of a truck at the southern English port of Dover. The Dutch driver was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 14 years in prison. *AP*

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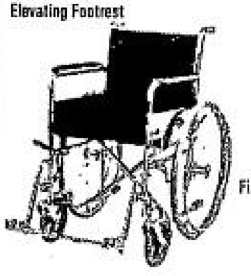
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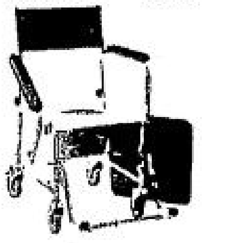
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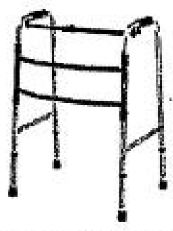
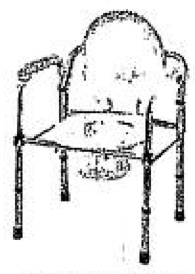
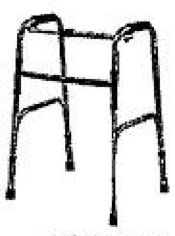
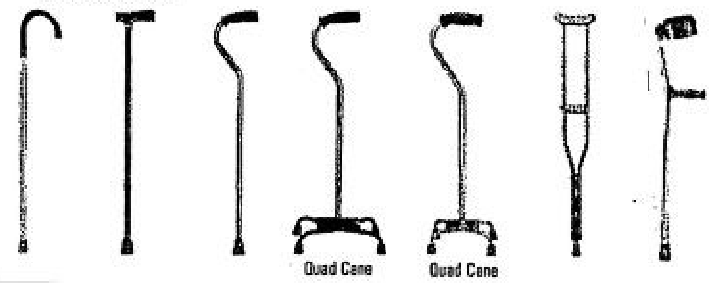

Reciprocal Folding Walker w/ Double Crossbars


Foldable Commode Chair


1" Folding Walker



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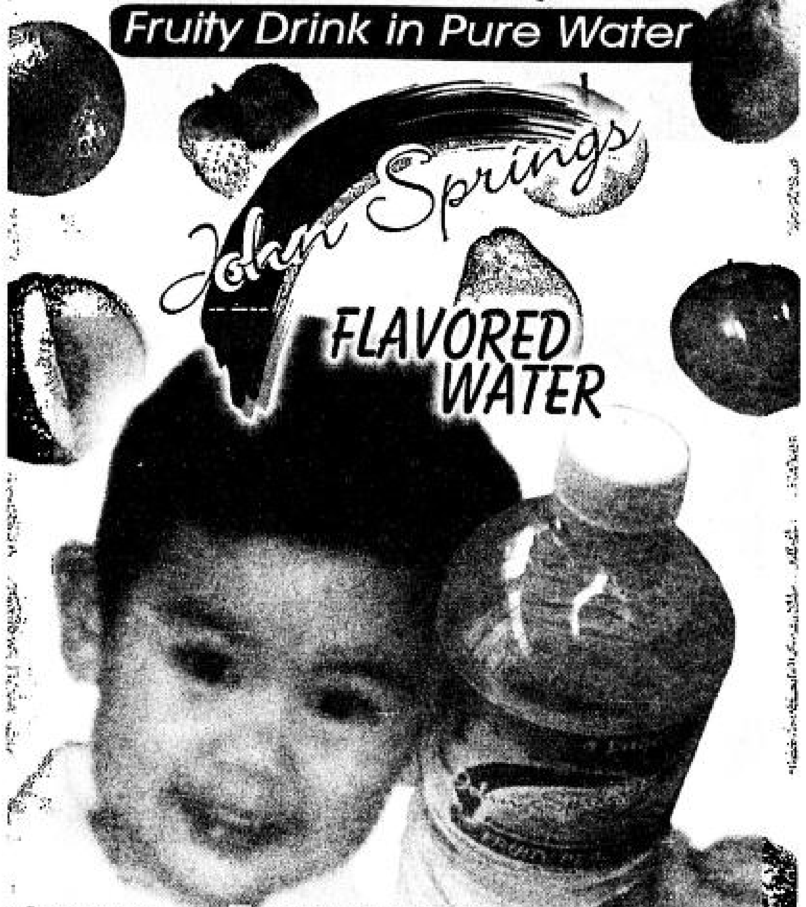

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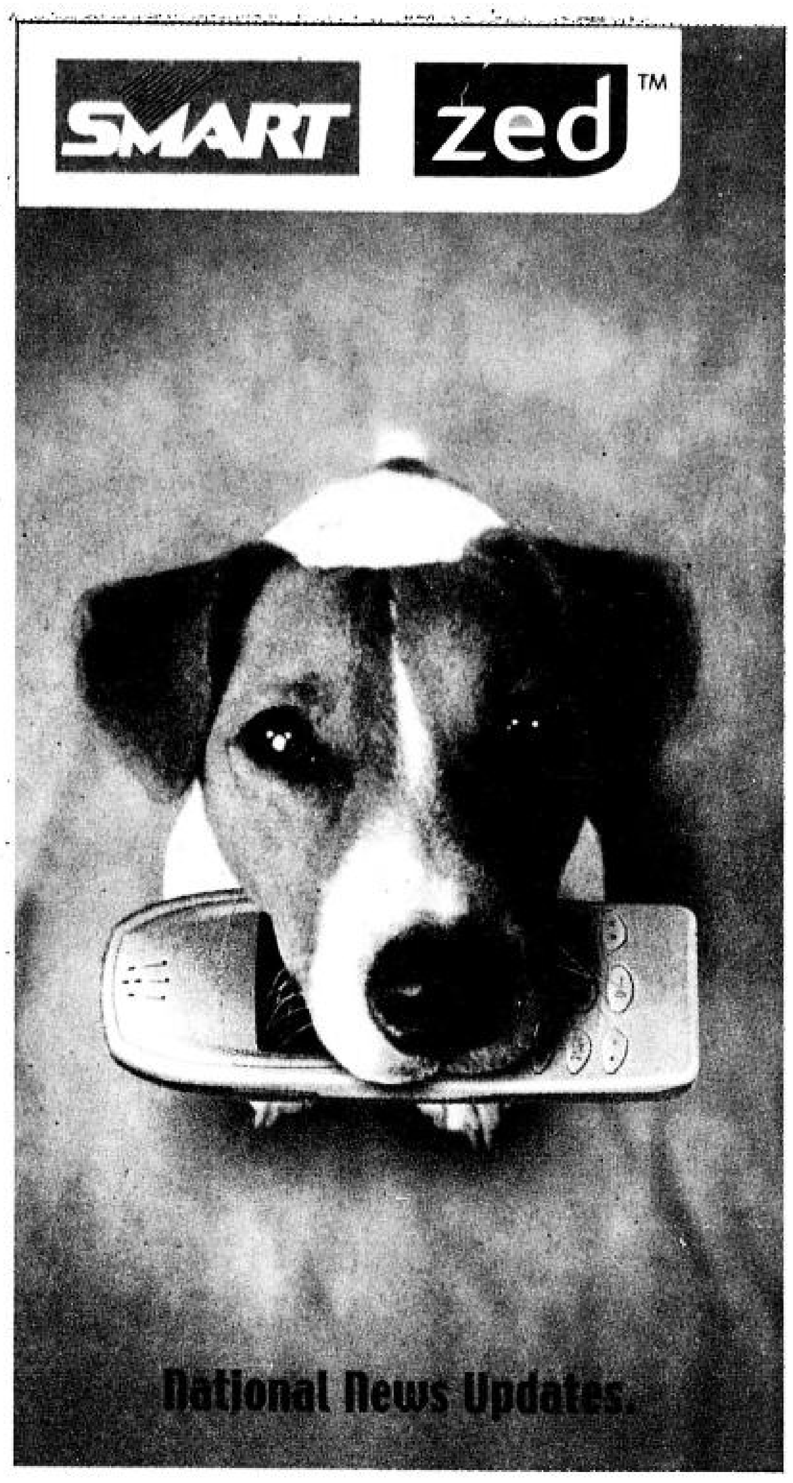

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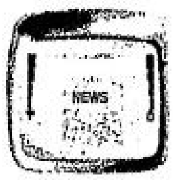

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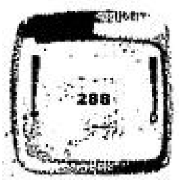

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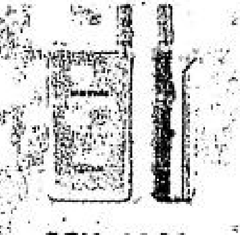
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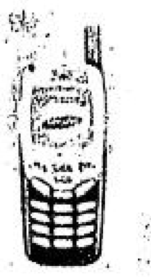
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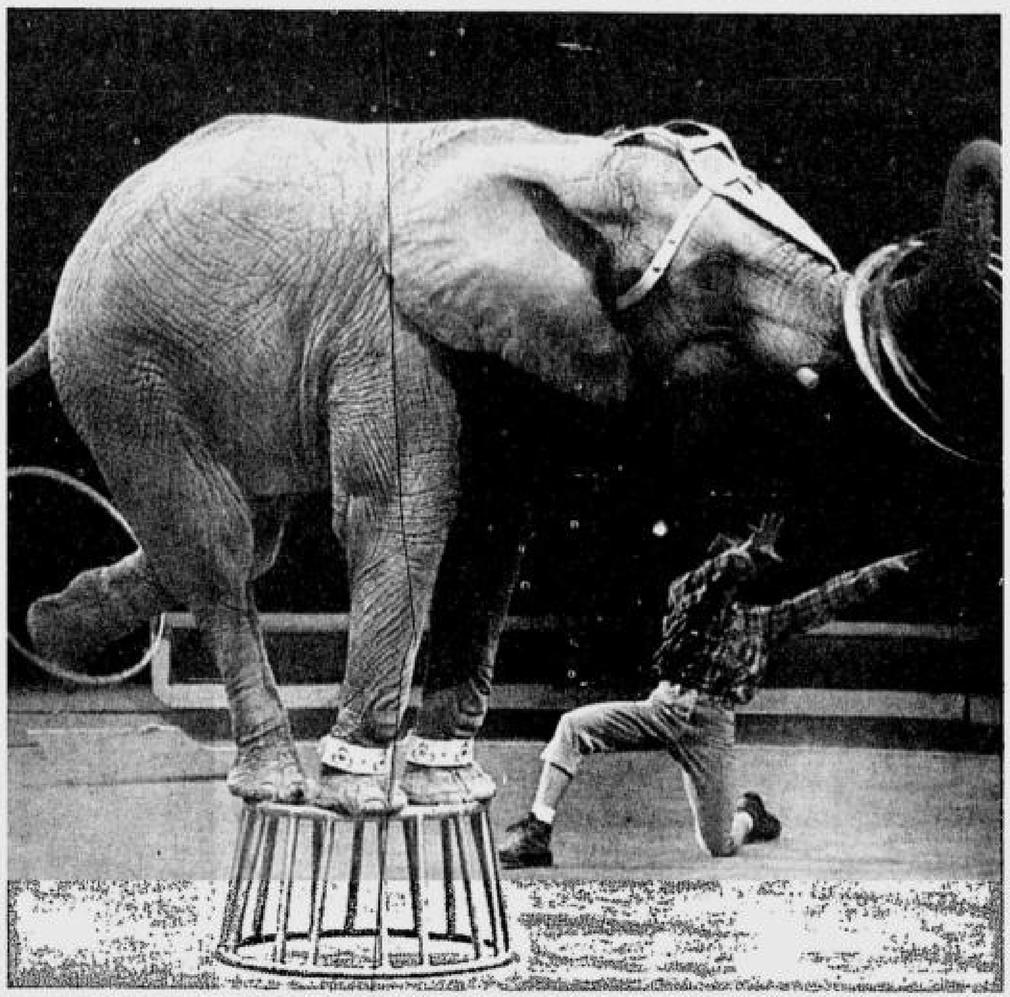

GIGANTIC BUT NOT GAUCHE AFP

An elephant twirls hoops in front of his trainer Dec. 7, on the eve of the Moscow Circus' opening night in Paris.

Chechen rebels urge Russia to negotiate an end to brutal war

SLEPTSOVSK, Russia—Leading Chechen rebel commanders have called on Russia to negotiate an end to the conflict in the breakaway republic and reaffirmed the legitimacy of Chechen separatist President Aslan Maskhadov.

"Today, Russia and Chechnya have a unique chance to put an end to this war (and) all that is possible must be done to end this carnage and bloodshed by sitting down at the negotiation table," a declaration published late on Saturday said.

The document was issued by the Chechen Armed Forces Commanders Council comprising seven top commanders and separatist Vice President Vakha Arsanov.

Russian and Chechen envoys held their first direct peace talks since the beginning of the brutal 26 month-long conflict last month but Russian authorities then poured cold water on the prospect of further talks and fighting has carried on in the war-torn republic.

Council members also reasserted the legitimacy of Maskhadov, whom Moscow describes as a terrorist and ceased to recognize as Chechen president following the entry of Russian troops in the breakaway republic to put down a separatist insurgency on Oct. 1, 1999.

"'Whatever Russian politicians and generals may say, only one man can speak for the whole of the Chechen people, this is President (Aslan) Maskhadov, who controls 90 percent of Chechen fighting units, which obey any order he gives," the declaration says.

Maskhadov "never had any contacts with terrorists or terrorist organizations and was elected by the Chechen people under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations," it went on.

Maskhadov was elected president of Chechnya in 1997 just months after Russia suffered a humiliating defeat in a 1994-96 war, in a poll overseen by the OSCE.

Russia has consistently tried to establish a direct link between Chechen separatist fighters and international terrorism, including Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization.

Meanwhile, Russia's military commander in the North Caucasus, General Gennady Troshev, was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying Saturday that Russia had completed over the past month the withdrawal from Chechnya of all troops not involved in Russia's self-styled "anti-terrorist operation" against separatist fighters.

"We withdrew all that we needed to withdraw over November and December," Troshev said at a press briefing.

Russia announced early this year that it would withdraw army forces from Chechnya but put the move on hold after the first 5,000 troops were pulled out. *AFP*

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News that makes a difference

China eyes new drug use cure

BEIJING—China is developing a method to cure drug use through acupuncture, offering new hope for the country's 860,000 addicts, state media said Sunday.

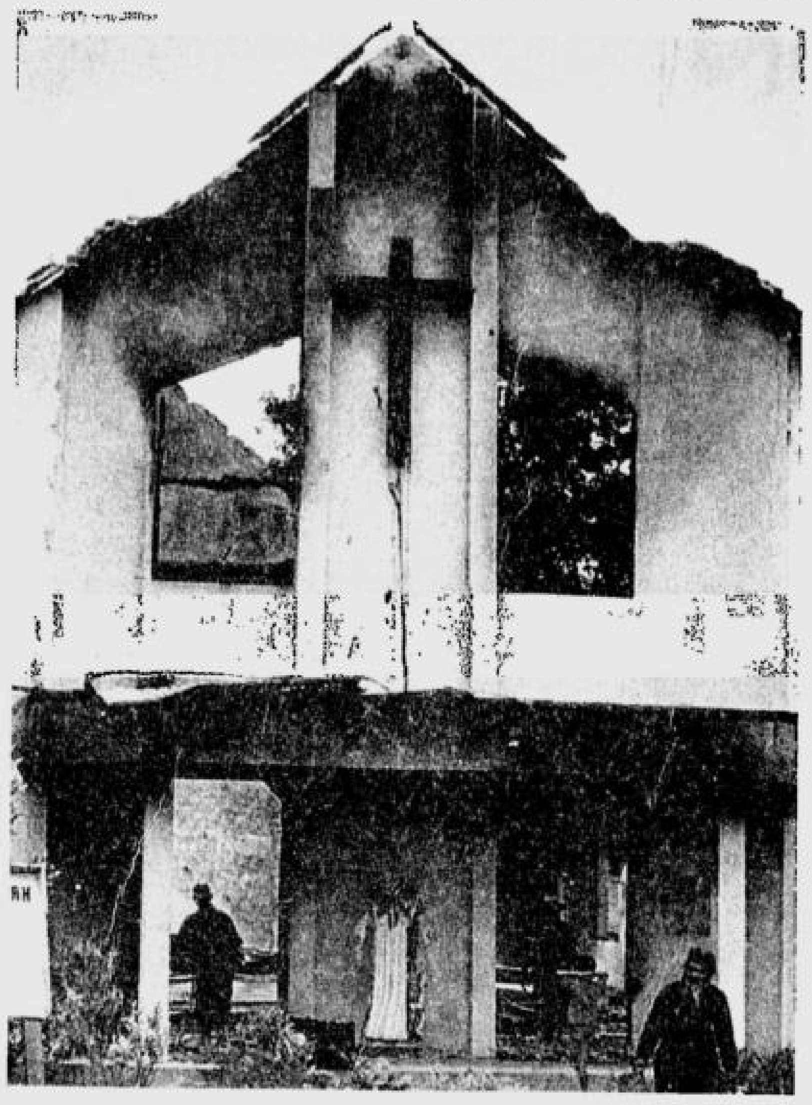
The treatment, applying ancient therapies to one of China's most enduring public health problems, has been tested on both humans and mice, the Xinhua news agency reported.

"It was effective on both species," said Han Jisheng, a professor at Beijing University who is heading the experiments.

In one of the tests, researchers applied acupuncture to the leg of a mouse addicted to heroin, resulting in a chemical change in its brain and blocking its desire for the drug, the agency said.

Despite the optimism in the scientific community, it appears clinical tests on human beings have only modest results.

Nearly 40 drug users received the treatment in August 2000, and follow-up checks last month showed only three had stayed drug-free in the intervening year. *AFP*



REUTERS

INDONESIAN residents walk past the ruins of a burned church in the Poso area of Indonesia's Sulawesi island, where Muslim-Christian violence in the last two weeks left at least 15 dead, local media reported on Dec. 8.

Christians flee Muslim warriors in Sulawesi

POSO, Indonesia—Christian refugees trekked for two days through mountain forest to escape advancing Muslim warriors armed with bombs and rifles, a Christian leader in a riot-torn district in Indonesia's Central Sulawesi said.

Speaking in Alitupu, a village in the Central Sulawesi district of Poso, where he and his fellow villagers had fled attacks by "Jihad" (holy war) warriors in a three-day offensive last month, the Christian leader spoke of being overpowered.

Muslims and Christians have been fighting in the Poso area since May last year, but after a period of relative calm the conflict has escalated in recent weeks.

Conflict has been stoked by the arrival of the Muslim militia, the Java-based Laskar Jihad (Jihad Force), whose leader claims to have fought against the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan and whose men have battled Christians in the Maluku islands.

The Poso attacks began on Nov. 27 and forced thousands of Christians to flee as the heavily armed militiamen seized a series of villages, refugees and aid workers say.

"If we had been one day later we would have all been dead," the Christian commander said.

The commander, who did not want to be named, said his defenders were armed only with machetes that were no match for the bombs and firearms of the black-clad attackers who struck with shouts of "God is great."

"They came to the corner of the village and threw a bomb. We don't know if it was real or home made," said the commander, a soft-spoken 39-year-old.

"Our houses and churches were destroyed." *AFP*

DNA test may clear 'Boston Strangler'

NEW YORK—The mystery surrounding the case of the so-called "Boston Strangler" for nearly four decades has deepened, after experts revealed DNA evidence from one of the victims does not match that of the alleged killer.

From 1962 to 1964, the rape and murder of 11 young women in Boston led to panic in the northeastern US city.

Albert DeSalvo, the alleged killer who had serious psychological problems and was once committed because of violent mental illness, at first confessed to the slayings, revealing details only the killer could have known.

He later recanted his confession, but was stabbed to death in his prison cell in 1973 by fellow inmates while serving time for a separate rape conviction, before the Boston case could be resolved.

Now experts say new DNA evidence may prove he was not the killer after all.

Lingering doubts about DeSalvo's guilt led his family and relatives of the Boston Strangler's last victim, Mary Sullivan, to pursue an investigation.

DeSalvo's brother, Richard, provided a DNA sample and Sullivan's body was exhumed last year.

Experts from George Washington University in Washington concluded that DNA found on the body did not match that of Sullivan or DeSalvo.

"We first used ultra-violet light to look for any biological material on the body, on her underwear and her pubic hair. We found several and targeted them for DNA analysis," said David Foran, director of the university's forensic molecular biology lab where the research was carried out.

"In her pubic hair there was a dry substance that looked like dried semen. We did the DNA test: they did not come from Mary Sullivan and they definitely did not come from Albert DeSalvo. We never found any Albert DeSalvo DNA."

Researchers refrained from proclaiming DeSalvo's innocence, as he may have killed the women without raping them, but say at least one other person, who could be the real Boston Strangler, was present when Sullivan was killed. *AFP*

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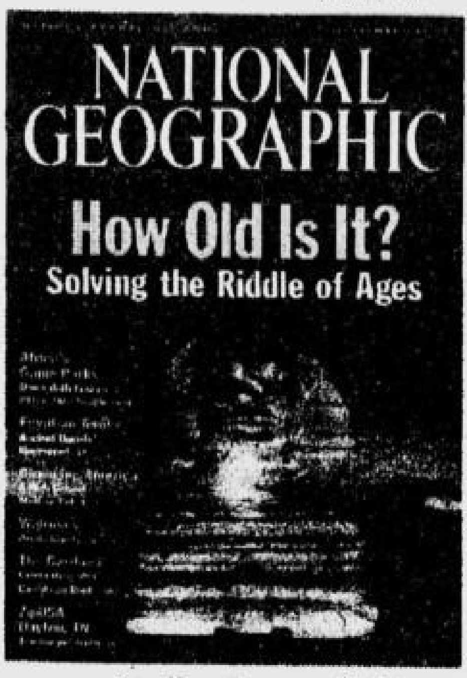

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Alvarez boasts: I'll be confirmed

BY MA. KRISTINA CASSION
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BUTUAN CITY—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said he was confident the Commission on Appointments would confirm him.

Alvarez said he is capable of performing the job and that members of the CA know about it.

Earlier, various *lumad* groups in Northern Mindanao vowed to block Alvarez's confirmation, saying his programs were against the indigenous peoples.

They also accused him of having failed to provide safeguards when he issued the Integrated Forest Management Agreement to corporations without consulting the affected tribal communities.

"If there are objections, let's get into the issue. Why question my credentials as a human rights advocate who affirms the rights of the oppressed cultural minority?" Alvarez told reporters here on Friday.

Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also said the opposition against Alvarez would not be a deterrent to his confirmation as DENR Secretary.

"I think he will be confirmed because what is now happening at the CA is that they do not listen to (the) opposition. So many confirmations were approved. Even those with cases before the Office of the Ombudsman were approved and I find that objectionable. But I think if they will be using the same standards, Secretary Alvarez will be confirmed," Pimentel said.

While saying he was sure he would pass the CA, Alvarez took the opportunity to deny allegations that he failed to consult the tribal communities when he awarded the Ifma to five multinational corporations for the rehabilitation of some 120,000 hectares of "denuded" lands in Agusan del Sur.

Alvarez said he was constantly in touch with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) about the Ifma and the application of the five MNCs.

Alvarez also branded those opposing his appointment as *lumad* groups that were not properly attended to by his office.

Environment Undersecretary Ramon Paje supported Alvarez's claim saying that he and a team of DENR officers conducted public hearings in La Paz, Agusan del Sur in 1997.

He also warned that the project could be transferred to other provinces because the investors were becoming alarmed of the opposition.

But Ruel Badabaran, chair of the Kahugpongan sa mga Lumadnong Organisasyon sa Northern Mindanao (Kasalo) said he was wondering who were included in the consultations, if these really occurred.

"Maybe the group of Katrilcar (Kahugpongan sa mga Tribong Lumad sa Caraga) were consulted but not other members of the tribe," he said.

Domingo Pareja, regional director of the NCIP in the Caraga region earlier said their office did not recognize Katrilcar because most of its officers were non-*lumads*.

He also said some officers of the group were into swindling and were making money out of issues affecting the tribal people.

Officials of the Tribal Coalition of Mindanao (Tricom) said some DENR officials promised them livelihood programs in exchange for retracting their manifesto against Alvarez's confirmation.

Victoriano Vidal, a Tricom official, however, said his group did not bite the bait and that they told the DENR officials they would continue to block Alvarez' confirmation.

ACTION TOOTS SOBERANO

Baguio policemen demonstrate their skills at apprehending criminal suspects during an anti-terrorism training session in Baguio City.

Army camp in Ecija ideal jail for Nur

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—Well secured but a serene place.

That's what this 35,000-hectare Army reservation will be like to former ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari in the event President Macapagal-Arroyo decides to detain him here while undergoing trial for rebellion, 7th Infantry Division Chief Maj. General Ernesto Carolina said.

"It's very easy to secure Misuari here in Magsaysay because in the first place it's very difficult to get out of here once you are in," Carolina said.

It really is. The fort, proclaimed in 1956 as a military reservation named after the late President Ramon Magsaysay, covers mountainous portions of the Sierra Madre range on the east of Central Luzon.

Taclang Damulag, the highest peak and which serves as a gunnery range, is any mountaineer's terror. Several American and Filipino soldiers have died losing their way here.

Big rivers bound the fort on all sides. It is in the remote portions of Palayan City. The camp's north and south gates are high and heavily secured.

Aside from the division, the Special Operations Command and the Training and Doctrine Command operate from here. Large-scale annual Balikatan exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement are held here.

Carolina said there has been no order yet from the President to prepare the former governor's holding room.

"In the event that the President directs that Misuari . . . be put (in) custody here in Fort Magsaysay, then we are prepared," he said.

The reservation, according to him, has "viable and secured areas," especially in the 2,000-hectare administrative area. "That is well secured," he said.

Without citing the possible detention facilities, Carolina said he would give the President several options on where to put the former governor.

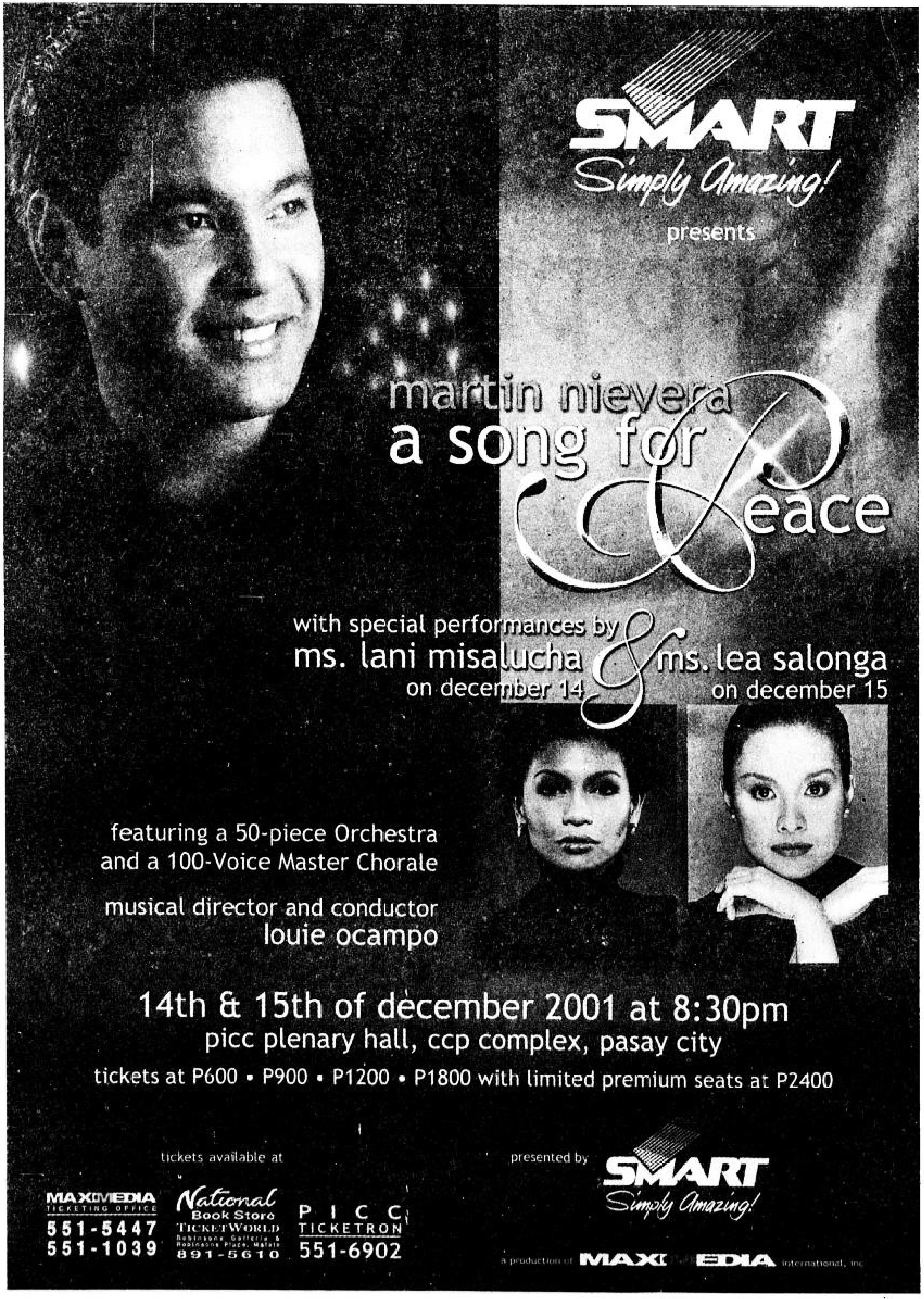
There are, however, no jail-type facilities. "But we have structures that can be refurbished and improved," he said.

Putting Misuari here would entail some cost to the division and Carolina does not think it would be so expensive.

For sure, he said he would not recommend him to be near or somewhere the Taclang Damulag area because he might be hit by firing during practice training.

Asked if he would recommend that Misuari be confined at the fort, he said: "I'm not in a position to assess that. That will be a political decision. But we are prepared if we will be directed."

The late Senators Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Jose "Pepe" Diokno were incarcerated at the fort's obscure military security detachment for 30 days starting March 12, 1973. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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Iloilo town residents demand ouster of their parish priest

BY RAJ PADILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Several residents of the southern town of Tigbauan are demanding the immediate relief of their parish priest whom they accused of mismanagement and corruption.

In a petition dated Nov. 17, at least 60 residents appealed to Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo to replace Fr. Eleuterio Carton because his continued stay is "an insult to the intelligence and dignity of every right-thinking Tigbaueño."

The petition said that aside from overstaying in the parish, Carton failed to account for the big donations that went to the parish of Tigbauan. The priest allegedly failed to explain where some of the Church's pieces of priceless property went, the petition said.

"He has lost moral ascendancy and his acts constitute not only sacrilege, but plunder as well," the petition said.

Among those who signed the petition were village chiefs, former town officials and members of the groups in Tigbauan, 11.9 kilometers south of here.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Carton since Sunday last week but to no avail.

Archbishop Lagdameo was also out for a regular retreat with priests.

A female member of the Tigbauan Parish Pastoral Council defended Carton, saying every centavo had been accounted for during the priest's first few years in the town. Carton has been parish priest of Tigbauan since the 1980s.

"The books (of account) are intact. Everything is in order," the woman, who refused to be named, told dyFM Bombo Radyo.

"We love and respect our parish priest. We don't know what came into the mind of these people who now want him out," she added.

According to the petition, Carton failed to account for the contributions of Circulo Tigbaueño, an organization of Tigbauan natives based in California.

The contribution was intended for the purchase of wooden benches for their church. But the petition said the residents have yet to see a single bench with the name of Circulo Tigbaueño on it.

During the term of Tigbauan Mayor Celso Ledesma in the 1990s, the municipal government coursed through Carton P200,000 and P150,000 in contributions from the Department of Tourism for the reconstruction of the church.

To date, the petition said Carton has yet to render an accounting to the municipal government.

The petition also said that in past years, Carton failed to inform his parishioners where the fiesta donations went.

The Tigbauan fiesta is celebrated every third Sunday of January in honor of the Sto. Niño. Several Filipino-Chinese businessmen donate funds and goods during the town's feast. While a portion of the donations went to the Archdiocese of Jaro, the petition said they have no idea where the rest of the money went.

The petition also noted that several pieces of priceless church property have been missing. These include a gold chalice and the gold box where it is stored, and a silver key and a silver sword used during Holy Week processions.

Ofer Templora, a former member of the Sangguniang Bayan of Tigbauan who signed the petition, said their centuries-old church bell could not be found.

The petition said Carton had the bell removed in 1994. Instead of repairing it, the petition said this was allegedly melted to make a new one.

"The hundreds-kilo bell according to reliable information, consisted of 60 percent silver and 40 percent brass, iron and gold. After seven years, there's no sign of it yet. Where is the bell, Father?" petition said.

Templora told the INQUIRER that Carton is slowly making Tigbauan "his own little kingdom."

"His bad influence over the people has grown so much and is already affecting our lives . . . He calls all those who oppose his intentions and question his actuation as enemies of the Church. This makes many people afraid of him," he said.

Adelina Puno, 63

ADELINA S. Puno of Barangay Luacan, Dinalupihan, Bataan died last Dec. 4. She was 63.

She left behind her children Cezar, Leah, Rolando Jr., Maria Nerissa, Racquel, Ronald and Richard, their spouses and grandchildren.

She was buried last Dec. 8 about 1:30 p.m. at the Family Shrine Cemetery in Dinalupihan, Bataan.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 22° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Loyosa, PDI Research/12/10/01

Carabao rustling unchecked in Masbate island town

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—At least 22 carabaos had reportedly been stolen in a span of 10 days in November in a town in Burias Island, Masbate.

The island-town called San Pascual is some four hours by boat and bus from this city.

Town officials, however, allegedly cared less even as the alleged stolen carabaos have been identified and pinpointed to them while these were being herded to a big motorized boat bound for Lucena City.

Ireneo de la Peña, president of the Cebuhano Association of San Pascual and the town mayor from 1988 to 1992, told the INQUIRER that the town council did nothing to stop the shipment of the suspected stolen carabaos, which were even paraded in the town center to the port.

De la Peña said the incident happened at about 10 a.m., Nov. 28, when he personally submitted to the town council, which was then in session, a formal request to investigate and suspend the shipment of carabaos amid incidents of rustling in five barangays of San Pascual.

He said the carabaos were stolen from barangays Mapaniki, San Pedro, Mabini, Kiromero and San Jose.

De la Peña said the local officials did not act on his request even as he was already testifying before them that the suspected stolen carabaos were the ones being loaded that time in a sea vessel named MB Brahman owned by a certain Lazaro.

De la Peña said Councilman Mario Fuentes, the presiding officer during the session, just shrugged off his complaint and told him they could not do anything to stop the shipment of the suspected stolen carabaos.

He said he was dumbfounded at the response of the council members who merely watched the carabaos passing in front of the town hall where the session was being held.

"I was motivated to (inform) all authorities concerned because my one male working carabao was stolen on Nov. 19. Upon verification, I (learned) that several carabaos were also stolen in four (other) barangays," De la Peña said.

With no local authorities acting on his complaint, De la Peña came here and sought the help of radio station dzGE and the INQUIRER to expose the inaction of the local officials.

He said powerful people are behind the rush of carabao rustling because the perpetrators are known but the local authorities seem to condone the incidents that have silenced the helpless farmer-victims to avoid reprisal.

Still, De la Peña said, he sent radio messages to Gov. Antonio Kho and the regional police office in Legazpi City, regarding the shipment of the stolen carabaos from San Pascual, through the police provincial offices in Masbate City and Camarines Sur, respectively.

He said he has also asked the regional police office in the Southern Tagalog Region to check all sea vessels from San Pascual that unload carabaos at the Lucena City port.

The complainant gave the INQUIRER copies of his complaints to Kho and the Camarines Sur provincial council.

Confirmed

The cattle and carabao rustling problem in Burias Island was confirmed by a radio reporter who came from San Pascual and is now working in a radio station here.

The reporter, who requested anonymity, confirmed that the problem has been unchecked for several years now because the local officials themselves are involved in cattle and carabao rustling in Burias Island.

He said nobody would dare report the crime to higher authorities for fear of their lives.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief, said he has not yet received any complaint about rampant carabao rustling in San Pascual.

Nevertheless, he said, he has ordered Sr. Supt. Antonio Enteria, Masbate police director, to look into the allegation and submit a report to his office immediately.

Galang said he had just had a talk with San Pascual Mayor Zacaria Lazaro, who called on his office to request the relief of San Pascual chief of police Insp. Efren Nillo Sr. for poor performance.

But the mayor, he said, had not mentioned anything about carabao rustling in her locality.

Galang also said that after studying the complaint of Lazaro, he ordered Enteria to relieve Nillo and find a replacement.

Agri economy saved Mindanao workers

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Despite the economic crisis that is being blamed for the increasing number of retrenched workers in other parts of the country, the number of laborers given their walking papers in Northern Mindanao has decreased, the region's economic director said.

Raymundo Fonollera, regional chief of the National Economic Development Authority here, said only about 1,000 workers were dismissed for economic reasons by their companies this year, compared to last year's 2,628 workers.

Fonollera said the region's economy is basically dependent on agriculture, which has remained vibrant for most part of the year.

"Although there is a high rate of displacements among workers in the industrial sector, it did not shake the economy of the region. Some of the displaced workers have even found jobs in the farms," he said.

Rodrigo Deloso, chief of the employment and promotions division of the labor department's regional office here, said that since the Asian financial crisis of 1997, a total of 16,196 workers were retrenched and at least 538 firms closed shop.

"It was in 1998 that the region felt the effect of the Asian financial crisis when 7,976 workers were displaced but a dramatic decline has been observed every year as it (went down) to 1,986 as of October this year," Deloso said.

However, Deloso said he was optimistic the industrial sector, which suffered the most from the economic slowdown, could weather the crisis.

He said some of the shops that closed down and retrenched people during the last five years are trying to reopen. He did not provide the names of the companies that are about to resume operations. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Tribal folk demand firearms to fight rebels

CATEEL, Davao Oriental—Tribal leaders here are asking Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil to provide them "more firearms and bullets" so they could use it in their *pangayao* or tribal war against the New People's Army.

Lawyer Alejandro Aquino, provincial legal officer, however, said Palma Gil was apprehensive about the request.

"Under the law, we cannot arm civilians unless they are recruited as militiamen. But it's not that Gov. Palma Gil does not want to arm the *lumads*. (However) we cannot just arm them. We don't like to provide firearms like we were giving . . . candies and biscuits," he said.

Aquino admitted that even if the provincial government declines to arm the tribal people, it could not stop them from acquiring firearms.

"But let me make it clear, the idea of arming the *lumads* is not ours. It's the *lumads* who wanted to arm themselves to defend their ancestral domain. Governor Palma Gil is supportive of the idea of collective self-defense. But even then, the *lumads* already have firearms and we can't stop them from arming themselves," he said.

Aquino also said the tribal people could also get their firearms from other sources.

"I think the military (also) provided them firearms to flush out communist rebels," he said.

The Mandaya tribe here has waged a war against the NPA for alleged atrocities committed against them by the rebels.

Early last month, they claimed to have killed at least five rebels in Sitio Tigbawan, Barangay Binondo in Baganga town. However, human rights group Karapatan-Mindanao said the tribesmen killed farmers suspected of being communist rebels.

Earlier, Vice Gov. Thelma Almario told the INQUIRER that the provincial government planned to allocate funds for the purchase of *bukakang* or homemade shotguns that would "be given to civilians in NPA-infested towns in the province."

Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police director, frowned on the plan, saying it would only aggravate the problem.

"What's going to be the control measures? That's very difficult. It will definitely jack up the number of lost firearms," Cuy said.

Major Alexis Gopico, commander of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said providing weapons to civilians in NPA-infested towns "would really be a big help for the military."

But he said the armed civilians would have to undergo "proper training to ensure they will not resort to banditry." ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

More soldiers opposed

LUCENA CITY—The leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Quezon province chided the Macapagal administration for its plan to recruit 20,000 more troopers.

Pedro Gonzales, Bayan Quezon chair, said if the basis for the government recruitment is the reported strength of the communist and Muslim insurgency, "that's a lot of baloney."

"How can they claim that the NPA is growing when in every reported encounter being dished out by the military in the media, most often it is the NPA that is on the losing side of body counts and casualties," Gonzales said.

"So if that is the case, there's no need for additional troops because they can already contain the spread and growth of the insurgents," the Bayan leader said.

Gonzales said more troopers entail additional burden on the country's meager financial resources.

"What we need is more funds for the delivery of basic services to the people. Funds that would build roads, schools, and health centers," he said. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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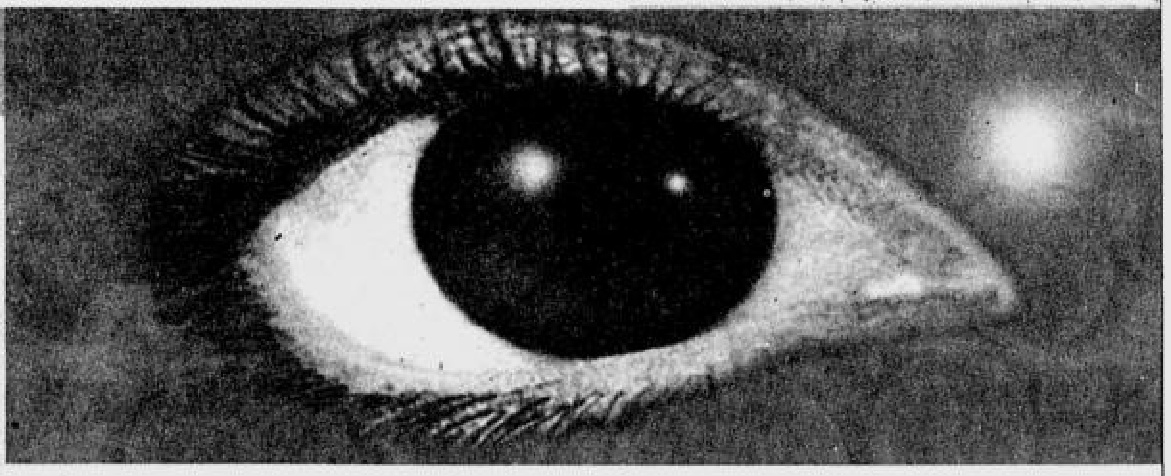

Common eye conditions in children and adults that may lead to permanent damage to vision, even blindness.

Loss of vision can be prevented. Proper eye care and education play important roles in avoiding blindness.

Amblyopia
Also known as "lazy eye", it is poor vision in one or both eyes that did not develop normal sight during early childhood. It can only be corrected if treated during infancy or early childhood.

Normally, a child's vision is quite poor at birth; this rapidly improves over the first few months as proper use of both eyes increases. Normal and equal visual input from both eyes is the stimulus for the full development of the vision centers in the brain, which occurs until about the eighth year of life. It is during this time when the brain's visual center is still adaptable that a child is prone to amblyopia. It is also the time Amblyopia can be corrected. After this period, development of the visual system is usually complete and can no longer be changed. The three major causes of Amblyopia are; misaligned eyes (Strabismus), poor or unequal focus of one or both eyes (Refractive errors), and cloudiness of the eye tissues or anything that interferes with the entrance of light into the eye (Visual deprivation).

Diagnosis and Treatment :
Ambyopia is detected by checking the difference in vision between each eye. Using a variety of tests, an ophthalmologist observes the responses of a child when one eye is covered. If one eye is amblyopic and the good eye is covered with a patch, the child may attempt to look around the patch or simply object to the patch. But poor vision does not always mean Amblyopia is present, thus the importance of a professional examination.

Using prescriptive eyeglasses to correct errors in focusing can treat amblyopia. Where eyeglasses alone do not improve vision, patching is used - covering the good eye with a patch, often for weeks or months to encourage proper focusing and use of the afflicted eye.

What happens if Amblyopia is left untreated?
The amblyopic eye may develop an irreversible visual defect, and if the good eye becomes diseased or injured, a lifetime of poor and uncorrectable vision may result. The perception of depth may also be lost and the eyes may become misaligned.

Prevention of Amblyopia:
Basically, children are not aware of having the condition. Amblyopia generally goes unnoticed. Unless the Amblyopic child has a misaligned eye or other obvious eye abnormalities, there may be nothing to suggest the child's condition to the parents.

Early vision screening and regular eye examinations by a competent opthalmologist are the best ways to detect Amblyopia. As a generall rule no infant is too young for an eye examination.

Diabetic Retinopathy – One of the leading causes of blindness in the Philippines, diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes and is caused by changes in the blood vessels of the retina, the light sensing nerve layer in the rear of the eye. The blood vessels may leak fluid or blood and develop fragile brush like branches and scar tissue. Thus images sent to the brain become blurred, distorted or partially blocked.

The likelihood of diabetic retinopathy increases the longer the person has had diabetes. About 80% of people who have had at least a fifteen-year history of diabetes have some blood vessel damage to their retina. People with untreated diabetes are said to be 25 times more prone to blindness than the ordinary population.

Types of Diabetic Retinopathy:
Background retinopathy – an early stage of the disease where fine blood vessels within the retina become narrow or obstructed while others enlarge to form balloon-like sacs. These leak blood and fluid, causing the retina to swell or form deposits called exudates. Sight is not seriously affected at this stage but it can lead to more advanced sight-threatening stages If the leaking fluid collects in the macula, the center of the retina responsible for detailed vision - such as reading - macular edema occurs. This can significantly decrease clarity of vision.

Proliferative retinopathy - When new abnormal blood vessels begin growing on the surface of the retina or optic nerve. The new blood vessels, called neovascularization, have weaker walls and may rupture, bleeding into the vitreous, the clear gel-like substance that fills the center of the eye. This can partially block the light passing through to the retina and cause blurred and distorted images. These abnormal vessels often grow scar tissue and may pull the retina away from its original position at the back of the eye resulting in a detached retina. Abnormal blood vessels may also grow around the pupil (on the iris) causing glaucoma by increasing pressure within the eye. This is the most serious form of diabetic retinal disease. It affects up to 20% of diabetics and can cause severe loss of sight, including total blindness.

Cause and Symptoms:
While the cause of diabetic retinopathy is not completely understood, it is known that diabetes damages small blood vessels throughout the body. Pregnancy and high blood pressure may aggravate diabetic retinopathy. While gradual blurring may occur if macular edema is present, sight is usually unaffected by background diabetic retinopathy and changes in the eye can go unnoticed unless detected by a medical eye examination. When bleeding occurs in proliferative retinopathy, vision may become hazy, spotty or even disappear altogether. While there is no pain, it requires immediate medical attention.

Detection and Diagnosis:
To detect diabetic retinopathy, an ophthalmologist conducts a painless examination of the inner eye using an ophthalmoscope. If retinopathy is noted, a flourescein angiography* of the retina may be requested to see if further treatment is necessary.

Once diabetic retinopathy is diagnosed, there are several ways of treatment:

Laser Surgery – a laser is used to seal leaking retinal vessels to reduce macular edema and reduce abnormal blood vessel growth and help bond the retina to the back of the eye.

In advanced stages, surgery** may be recommended.

Because of the vision threatening nature of diabetic retinopathy, individuals with diabetes should see an ophthalmologist for a medical eye exam at least once a year even if they have no visual symptoms.

*A fluorescent dye is injected into a vein in the arm that will travel through the bloodstream, including the retina. Photographs are taken in rapid succession as the dye passes through the retinal blood vessels.

**Including microsurgical procedures like vitrectomy, membranectomy and scleral buckling.

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Gloria may ask US to take NPA out of terror list

(From page A1)

The NDF said the truce would be effective if the government declared its own unilateral ceasefire.

"We hope that our act of good will and the mutual ceasefire between the government and the NDF will improve the atmosphere for . . . holding the next round of formal negotiations in early January 2002 and accelerating the negotiations on social and economic reforms," the NDF said.

President to reciprocate

The government said it would reciprocate the NDF gesture.

The President said she would order a cessation of hostilities with the NPA in observance of the Christmas season.

"Yes, I will approve that," she said of De Venecia and the government panel's recommendation for her to approve a stop to military operations against the NPA.

But as of Saturday night, when the President attended the 16th anniversary celebration of the INQUIRER, she said she was still awaiting the recommendations from the military about the date and duration of the suspension of hostilities.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security was scheduled to meet last night in Malacañang to discuss the NDF proposal for a month-long truce and a swap of prisoners.

"Probably a decision could be made," Tiglao said of the committee headed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The NDF also expressed hope that the truce would lead to the release of captives from both sides, the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and the creation of the Joint Monitoring Committee.

The talks are now centered on socioeconomic reforms, which, if completed, will address the root causes of the communist-led insurgency.

The NDF said all NPA units would be on "defensive mode" throughout the truce but would remain vigilant against movements of government troops.

"Active self-defense shall be undertaken only in the face of imminent danger," it added, stressing that any violation of the truce will be reported to its peace-negotiating panel.

Soldiers and policemen will also be allowed to enter or pass through NPA-held territories to make personal visits to their relatives and friends, it said.

It could be the first time in many years that the government and the communist movement would observe a bilateral Yuletide ceasefire.

US list dampens peace

De Venecia's announcement of the prospect of a final peace settlement with the NDF was, however, dampened by the inclusion of the NPA in the US list of terrorist groups.

Ms Macapagal was among the first leaders to have backed the US-led global war on terrorists. In exchange, the US government has pledged additional military aid to Manila in its war against secessionist groups, including the Abu Sayyaf group holding hostage an American couple on Basilan Island.

Party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, a former NDF leader, had warned of the serious implications of the listing.

Ocampo said that if Ms Macapagal accepted to this, she would be closing the doors to peace talks with the NDF because she has a policy of not negotiating with terrorists.

Ocampo challenged the President to either reject the US list or make a categorical policy statement about whether she regards the NPA as a terrorist group.

"It is not for us to accept," the President said when asked if she was inclined to reject the US listing.

She said it was for the NPA and the NDF to prove that they were not terrorist groups.

De Venecia had said the US listing could be a hindrance to the final peace agreement.

Tiglao said the government was hopeful that the NDF would not abandon the peace talks because the United States had classified the NPA as a terrorist group.

There are suspicions that the Philippine government had influenced the United States into declaring the NPA a terrorist organization.

Militant groups yesterday struck back at the United States and released their own list of terrorist organizations.

And guess who topped the list? The Bush administration.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya noted that in the last 100 years, the United States killed over 11 million people worldwide.

Citing reports from the US News and World Report, Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said the Central Intelligence Agency launched "more than 900 terrorist attacks in the name of US interest" from 1951 to 1976.

De Venecia said in his press conference Saturday noon that he would announce a "formula" to resolve the problem posed by the US list in three days.

He said he would have to clear his formula with the President first.

It could not be ascertained whether what the President stated could be the formula.

De Venecia had announced that the three-five months timetable was agreed upon during his meeting with NDF leaders Jose Ma. Sison, Luis Jalandoni and Fidel Agcaoili in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on Nov. 30.

He said he was accompanied in the meeting by government negotiators, Eduardo Ermita, Silvestre Bello III and Undersecretary Silvestre Afable.

During what he described as "back-channel talks," De Venecia said the NDF also gave its commitment for the 30-day ceasefire.

The ceasefire, he said, would pave the way for the release of four NPA captives.

De Venecia said that from Utrecht, he, the government and NDF panels proceeded to Oslo for a meeting with Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik last Dec. 1.

Oslo hosts the government-NDF talks.

He said the informal agreement to accelerate the talks and sign a peace agreement early next year was supported by Bondevik.

The prime minister has vowed to host the talks until its conclusion. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Christian V. Esguerra*

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About time . . .

(From page A1)

"So when are you getting married?" she asked. "Maybe next year," he replied.

Ms Macapagal, who had once said she is a boring person, claimed she is not excited about the wedding.

"No, I'm not because I have a job," she said, then laughs, probably as she saw the disbelief and disappointed faces of INQUIRER executives, editors and reporters during a tête-à-tête at the INQUIRER offices Saturday night.

"If I'm excited, it's because we have a 3.7-percent growth rate and the lowest inflation rates in 16 months. Those are the things that excite me," she said, smiling.

"I'm very focused on my job," she follows up to convince her audience.

Maybe an *apo* (grandchild) would excite her? "No, I (could not possibly) be excited about everything," she says.

Lola Gloria?

Try again. How do you want to be called, Lola or Grandma? "Lola's fine with me," she says flatly.

Has her friends called her up when Mikey's wedding plans came out in the INQUIRER?

"No," she said. "First of all, friends don't call me."

How about members of her Cabinet? Were they excited as well?

"We don't talk about personal things in the Cabinet," she said.

But no matter how she tried to conceal her excitement, Ms Macapagal showed indications of a very concerned and involved mother.

She showed up at the INQUIRER during its 16th anniversary program Saturday night to greet its officers and employees a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

During a tête-à-tête with the INQUIRER executives, editors and reporters, which lasted for about two hours, she declined to be interviewed (especially on "heavy" issues).

But she consented when she was asked about Mikey's wedding.

"It would probably be in Malacañang," she said of the reception.

Even the wedding rites, if she had her way.

And who would officiate? This time, she giggled and laughed. "Oh, I have no idea."

Edsa characters

She does not know yet who would be the wedding sponsors but if she were to be asked, she wanted former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos to be among them.

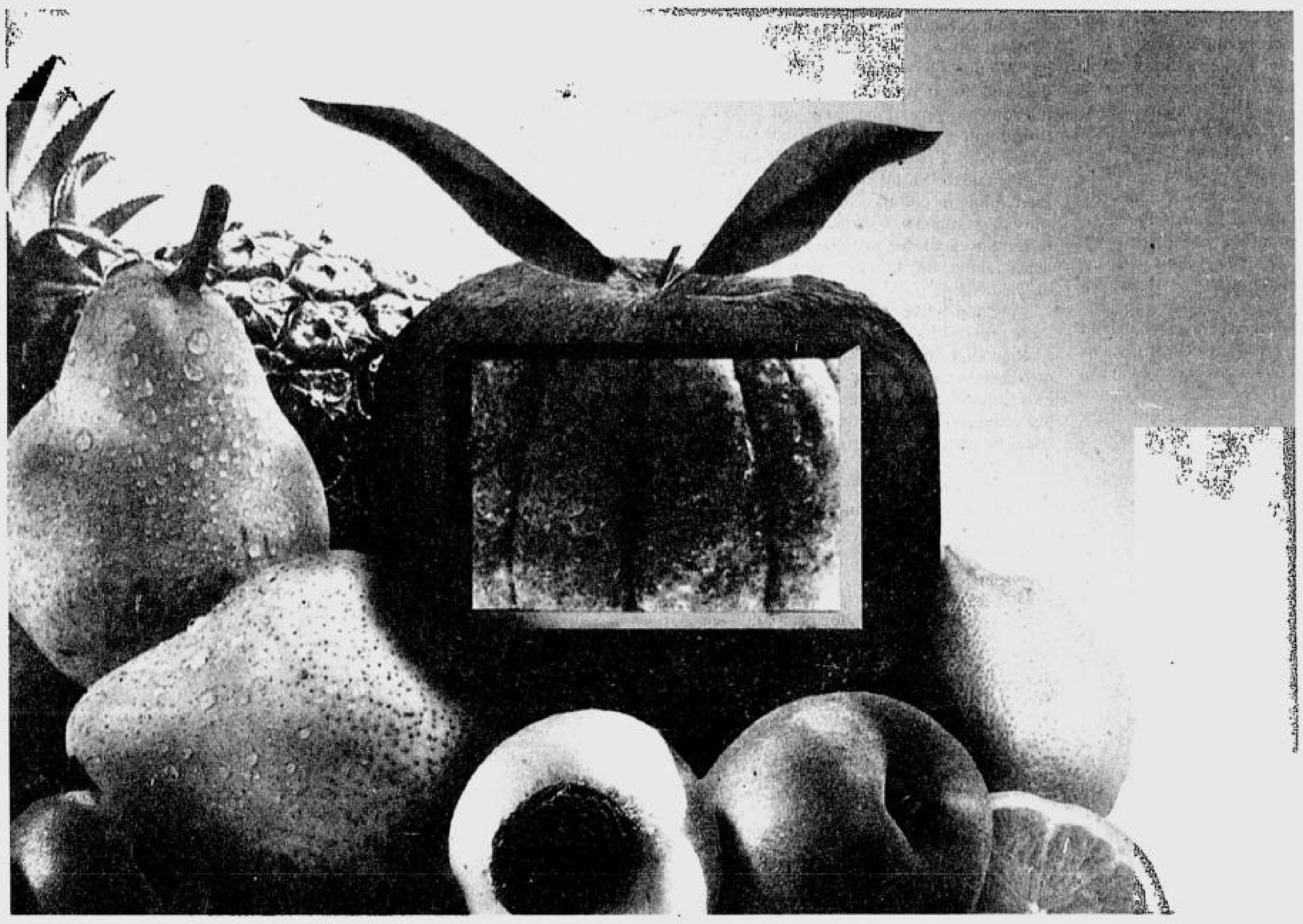
It would be another gathering of Edsa symbols—Ms Macapagal, with Aquino, Ramos and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, who would probably officiate the wedding.

In 1999, the "Wedding of the Year" went to Beaver Lopez, scion of the Lopez business empire, and Jacqueline Ejercito Estrada, only daughter of then President Joseph Estrada and First Lady Luisa "Loi" Estrada.

With a lavish Malacañang reception and guests brought in dozens of tourist buses, the elegant wedding was marred later with reports of multimillion-peso gifts to the President's daughter.

Now, 2002 would definitely belong to Angela and Mikey, who is also an aspiring actor.

But with a frugal mother, Mikey might just have to cut down on frills.



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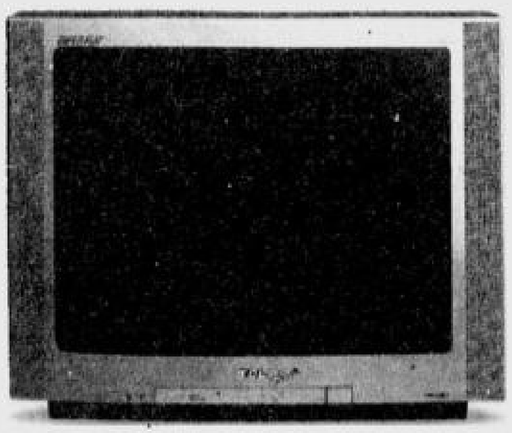

TCL 2911

Contractors, ‘trapos’ bug ₱2-B SK fund

(From page A1)

But SK funds, and young politicians, are not immune to corruption.

Darwin Mariano recalls a harrowing experience. Then only 15 years old, he was elected SK chair of Damar in District 1 of Quezon City in 1992, when the first SK elections were held.

“We were offered (bribes) by contractors left and right,” Mariano disclosed.

Out of nowhere, contractors descended on the newly elected SK members with a list of infrastructure projects or proposals for purchase of office supplies and sports equipment.

“The funny thing is they know exactly how much funds we have,” Mariano recalled.

For instance, the contractors knew that his SK was entitled to a lump-sum budget of P100,000.

Just say what projects you want, Mariano recalled them saying, and we’ll take care of the rest.

But the most shocking thing, Mariano said, was the part about an “SOP” (standard operating procedure) that the contractors told them about matter-of-factly.

He recalls one such conversation: “This is how much money you have. You agree to an SOP of 10 to 20 percent of the total value of the project. We will give this to you in cash, no receipts, no questions asked.”.

Mariano then understood that the “SOP” in government procurement, as these contractors practiced it, was to secure a contract by giving its proponent 10 to 20 percent of the project cost as his commission or cut.

“For a 15-year-old, P10,000 for your own pocket that will never be traced is . . . ,” he said, losing words to describe the prospect of easy money. “If you were of lesser character, you would have succumbed (to the temptation).”

He learned that the contractors compensate for the kickbacks by submitting overpriced projects.

Mariano said his SK turned down the proposal, but the experience gave him a “phobia.” He said the SK decided not to touch the SK share from the barangay funds and instead resorted to fund-raising to finance its projects.

After another stint as SK chair in 1996, Mariano said he decided to “quit politics.” But he helped out in a presidential campaign and now sits in the National Youth Consultative Task Force set up by the Macapagal administration to draw up a comprehensive policy for the youth.

Mariano believes that the presence of contractors who offer “SOP” to SK members is “very pervasive.”

“I don’t think there is any SK chair who does not know (about this practice),” Mariano said.

No corruption

But Camillia Trinidad-Orense, SK chair of San Lorenzo, takes exception.

“We don’t have that here,” she declared. Their funds, all of P4.7 million this year alone, have not been tainted with corruption, she adds.

She said the SK members devote their funds to cultural and sports activities, animal vaccination and a feeding program for the poor residents (about 400 families) in the upscale village.

“We don’t need contractors for these projects,” she said.

Raymund Fernandez, SK chair of Mandaluyong and the recipient of several awards for outstanding leadership, confirmed “attempts” by some contractors to “offer sweet juices” for their projects.

But Fernandez said their idealism and the transparent way in which their funds were used discouraged corrupt individuals from attempting again.

Richard Alvin Nalupta, president of the SK National Federation composed of SK provincial chairs, said corruption was the exception rather than the rule in the SK.

Protective of his organization, Nalupta said he has not seen a case of corruption during his watch, which started in 1996.

Nevertheless, he admitted that the SK could “learn corrupt ways” along the way.

Meddling captains

Bureaucratic red tape and intervention of barangay chairs and other officials are the more pervasive problems plaguing the SK funds, Nalupta said.

During seminars, Nalupta said the Ombudsman often cites the case of a mayor who was charged with graft. This mayor, he said, had pressured SK members to sign vouchers for ghost projects.

“There were reports that some SK members were being asked to just sign the vouchers for non-existent projects,” Nalupta said.

Apart from his own, Mariano said he has heard other “horror stories” from his former colleagues.

Most of these, he said, involve barangay captains who dictate projects for the SK, a blatant violation of Republic Act No. 7160, which grants complete autonomy to the SK.

Carlos Tan Derecho, director of the National Barangay Operations Office of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, said several administrative cases of technical malversation of funds had been lodged against barangay and other local officials over SK funds.

“Some (regional DILG offices), they are asking us how to handle these complaints,” Derecho said.

Most cases, he said, involve the unauthorized use of the SK’s 10-percent share by the barangay officials. But in some cases, he said, the barangay officials did not mean to embezzle the funds.

“Some SK are not that active or do not use the funds allotted to them and so sometimes you cannot fault the barangay officials if they want to tap the idle funds,” Derecho said. He emphasized, however, that this practice is illegal.

Nalupta explained that contrary to law, some barangay chairs or councils exercise the power of approval over SK projects.

“If they do not like the projects, they refuse to sign the checks,” Nalupta said.

The problem apparently lies in the ambiguity of the law.

Having exclusive right over their budget, the SK approves its yearly or supplemental budgets in a resolution signed by a majority of its members. The budget resolution is then submitted to the Sangguniang Barangay, where the SK chair sits as ex-officio member, as a requirement for the release of the funds.

But the same law provides that the barangay chair shall “exercise general supervision over the activities of the Sangguniang Kabataan” and “approve vouchers relating to the disbursement of barangay funds.”

“The SKs encounter difficulties accessing their funds because the barangay captain has a review power (over the funds) and some of them apply pressure,” Georgina Nava, the National Youth Commission’s project coordinator for the SK, said.

Review power

The Iskolar, a training manual for the SK crafted principally by former NYC Commissioner Celine Madamba, now the INQUIRER’s corporate affairs officer, interpreted the barangay chair’s general supervision power thus: “This does not imply any authority to review (SK) budgets and other resolutions. What is called for is the mere submission of such official acts of the SK to the (barangay chair) and monthly financial statements to the (SB) for information and guidance.”

Iskolar (which stands for Integrated SK Organizational, Leadership and Reorientation Program) noted that Sec. 239 of the code meant that the SB “did not have the power to spend what they had reserved for the SK.”

SK funds that were not used during the year cannot be spent by the SB or reverted to the treasury but should be rolled over to the succeeding year.

Derecho said there is a big difference between the power to review and the power to approve.

“If the budget did not go against the provisions (of the code), the SB cannot disapprove it. And the power to review does not include the power to change the items in the SK budget,” Derecho said.

Derecho said this is where vigilance by SK members comes to the fore.

Paolo Benigno Aquino Jr., commissioner at large of the NYC which serves as the SK secretariat, said that the SKs’ biggest problem was access to their own funds.

“The common sentiment is that it’s very hard for them to access the funds because the barangay chairs refuse to sign the checks, and that’s where the problem lies,” Aquino said.

Aquino said the barangay chairs should not be given the power to approve the SK funds.

Nalupta disclosed that a number of SK chapters have been unable to obtain their funds at all.

Nalupta said the barangay chairs block the release of funds for various reasons, which becomes a source of irritants between the SK and the barangay chair.

“If the SK chair is not strong-willed, the barangay chair usurps his power. If the SK chair is a political enemy, or not submissive or becomes more popular than the barangay chair, there would be difficulties securing approval for the projects,” Nalupta said.

Transparency and accountability is not always clear with regards to the barangay and SK funds, providing a fertile ground for corruption or inefficiency.

Like the barangay, the SK is required by law to submit annual financial reports to the SB and to the SK federations.

But Nalupta admits that only about 60 percent of the SKs comply with the requirement.

He said he issued reprimands to the erring SKs. But he said he understands the case of SKs who have no staff or ample time to document the projects.

The SB, in turn, is required to hold barangay assembly once a year to report its finances and activities to the barangay residents.

Derecho said Interior Secretary Jose Lina issued a memorandum circular dated Oct. 28, 2001 directing all SBs to call a barangay assembly to report their finances and to present their budget proposal for 2002.

“We’re now monitoring who complied with the circular,” Derecho said.

Determining the barangay’s real income is also a problem for some SKs.

Derecho said it was possible that not all SBs disclose the barangay’s total income. While he said the IRA is fixed, the barangay also has income from the taxes and fees collected from operations of business establishments and barangay clearances and its share from natural resources such as forestry and fisheries, mining and sand and gravel.

Even the Commission on Audit, he said, has to depend on the SB’s record when conducting audits.

Derecho said most SBs in rural areas also do not have proper accounting procedures.

“Sometimes, they forget to record the income or before they record it, the money has been used, especially those from fund-raising activities,” Derecho said.

According to Nalupta and Aquino, meddling by politicians in SK affairs is truly rampant.

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US . . .

(From page A1)

He said he and other al-Qaida fighters, including some with families, were living at the nearby stronghold of Milawa, but were seeking shelter in caves during air strikes.

When the bombing stops, they return to the surface and start firing at opposing Afghan tribes.

Anti-Taliban tribal leaders said heavy aerial bombing alone would not dislodge Bin Laden's fighters from the complex, which is carved deep into the White Mountains.

Fighters from the region's eastern tribal alliance, backed by fire from aging Soviet-made tanks, have launched small attacks on al-Qaida positions and have taken some territory the past few days.

But the al-Qaida has put up strong resistance with mortars, rocket launchers and small arms.

Haji Zahir, a militia commander and the son of provincial governor Abdul Qadir, said he and other leaders were assembling a tribal force of about 2,500 men for a new assault to be launched soon.

Kandahar

In the south, rivalries among different factions who had come together to fight the now vanquished Taliban jockeyed for control of Afghanistan's second largest city, Kandahar.

The Taliban abandoned the city in chaos on Friday.

Looting and sporadic fighting among various anti-Taliban forces tapered off in the city late Saturday. However, the situation remained tense, hampering relief efforts after weeks of intensive US bombing.

The factional skirmishes prevented Afghan Red Cross workers from recovering bodies from streets and homes, said Michael Kleiner, a spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul.

Interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai, who will take office on Dec. 22, wants to set up a tribal commission to administer Kandahar.

Talks were under way Sunday to settle the matter with the city's former governor, Gul Agha, and other power brokers, including Mullah Naqibullah, who accepted the Taliban surrender.

Sources in Kandahar said Agha's forces held control of most of the city, which he had ruled until his expulsion by the Taliban in the mid-1990s.

Before the Taliban rose to power and threw them into a loose coalition, the factions now in Kandahar had been bitter rivals.

In the surrounding desert, but staying out of Kandahar, US Marines hunted fleeing Taliban fighters and sealed off escape routes.

There were no reported encounters with hostile groups on Saturday, but American forces remained on alert despite the routing of the Taliban.

Bin Laden tape

In Washington, a newspaper reported that US officials have obtained a videotape of Bin Laden that provides the strongest evidence to date that the al-Qaida leader was connected with the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

The Washington Post reported that in the 40-minute tape, Bin Laden described the damage around the fallen twin towers in New York as greater than expected and praised Allah for greater success than anticipated.

The tape was reportedly found in a private home in Jalalabad.

The Post said US government officials were debating whether to make it public. *AP*

Marcelo . . .

(From page A1)

telecommunications clearinghouse firm.

Guillermo Yanza Jr., president of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc., Marcelo's controversial company, and Romulo Retirado, vice president of International Telecommunications Consultancy Services Inc., are readying the charges, their lawyer Melanio Mauricio Jr. said in a phone interview yesterday.

"(Marcelo) has perjured himself and he has offered false testimony during the Senate blue ribbon hearing last Friday," Mauricio said.

His clients' legal personality to sue Marcelo, he added, was based on their status as company officers who knew a crime had been committed. "Knowing of a crime, they can file criminal charges," Mauricio said.

Other business associates of Marcelo are also coming out to debunk his allegation, including one who disclosed to the INQUIRER that Marcelo was behind a text messaging smear campaign against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Set to appear before the committee when the hearing resumes today are PCCI officials Dante Madriaga, Voltaire Alcantara and Northern Pacific Link Corp. employees Leah Vargas Ledesma and Juliet Marcelino.

A prospective witness said Marcelo perjured himself when he claimed that Jonathan Ojano was never his employee, and that both Ojano and Retirado regularly received a net amount of P20,000 a month from Marcelo.

No appearance

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President was not likely to appear before the Senate to rebut Marcelo's allegation. Tiglao said that since Marcelo does not have any witness to corroborate his allegation, the opposition could only be setting up Ms Macapagal in order to embarrass her.

"We hope the minority (won't) use this as a spectacle to destroy the President when we know very well that Mr. Marcelo is lying," Tiglao told Palace reporters in a teleconference call.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel earlier said the President should formally refute in person Marcelo's testimony last Friday, otherwise it will remain undisputed.

Tiglao said calling on Ms Macapagal to appear before the Senate under these circumstances is "a form of harassment."

Besides, Tiglao added, the testimonies of two Palace officials and a soldier, whom Marcelo said were involved in his supposed secret meeting with Ms Macapagal, are still to be heard from.

They are presidential appointments secretary Maimai Jimenez, Presidential Security Group commander Brig. Gen. Glen Rabonza, and a PSG soldier identified only as Sgt. Alvis who fetched Marcelo from a fast-food restaurant near the Palace and took him inside the Malacañang grounds.

"We think they (senators) would have to hear the other witnesses," Tiglao said.

Text brigade

The business associate who revealed the smear campaign said Marcelo had set up the text messaging brigade in his office at the Fortune building on Pasig Boulevard in Pasig City last December to launch a smear campaign against then Vice President Macapagal and proponents of the impeachment trial. The source asked not to be named, citing safety reasons.

The operation reportedly involved 10 computers which could be fitted with 10 SIM cards from which messages could be sent simultaneously.

"All of us were aware that he was into that smear campaign because he wanted to get into the good graces of Jaime Dichaves," the source said.

Malaysia clears Nur

(From page A1)

The report said that even as Misuari served as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), his followers "had undertaken joint activities including kidnapping operations with the Abu Sayyaf.

Two top aides of Misuari provided speedboats that the bandit group used in taking their captives across the sea's border, according to the report.

The military report said MNLF strongholds on Jolo Island had sheltered the Abu Sayyaf and their captives until most were ransomed off for millions of dollars. Misuari and his men are believed to have received a share of the money, the report said.

Misuari's force even trained new Abu Sayyaf recruits in Basilan, where the bandits are still holding American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Waiting for signal

Norian said Misuari would be deported as soon as the Philippine government stated its readiness to accept him.

"The question of whether or not he will be accepted does not arise as the Philippines has requested us to detain him. They have stated that they will accept him . . . we are only waiting for their signal," he said.

Misuari dropped the MNLF's goal of independence in favor of limited autonomy when he signed a peace accord in 1996.

Backed by Manila, he was elected governor of ARMM that year. He opposed an election held last week for his successor, claiming the balloting violated the peace accord because he hadn't been consulted.

Misuari, who led the MNLF from the early 1970s, was ousted as chair by other top leaders earlier this year. They claimed he mismanaged the regional government and the MNLF.

Norian reiterated that Misuari would not be sent to a third country.

The 60-year-old former separatist guerrilla leader faces rebellion and sedition charges in the Philippines in connection with the bloody armed revolt by his followers in Jolo last month.

Philippine officials had earlier appealed to Kuala Lumpur to detain Misuari for the time being until the situation in Mindanao stabilized.

Mahathir has said that Misuari's detention had put his government in a tight spot and that he feared his prolonged detention could sour ties with Manila.

Malaysia had refused to give Misuari asylum even though it had provided him and his guerrillas sanctuary in the early 1970s when they waged a bloody rebellion.

Sta. Rosa or Fort Magsaysay

In Manila, the Philippine military has started looking for a place where Misuari will be detained in case he is deported.

"We will implement whatever is the order of the Commander in Chief. We will detain him somewhere else," said Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff.

The Philippine Army headquarters at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and the detention facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, are being considered as holding areas for Misuari.

Even before he is deported to the Philippines, President Macapagal-Arroyo will "actively ask" the United States to declare Misuari and members of his faction in the MNLF terrorists.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal "will work for the classification of the Misuari breakaway group as a terrorist group in the same manner that the US government classified the NPA as one."

Ms Macapagal had earlier said that the Philippine government now considers Misuari a terrorist.

"If Misuari is a terrorist, as the President classified him, therefore the entire Misuari group should also be classified as a terrorist group," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said declaring the Misuari group a terrorist organization would make it hard for them to attract support from the Muslim population. *Reports from AFP, AP and Carlito Pablo*

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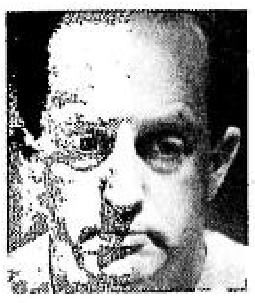
Van Gundy quits as NY coach

Knicks down Pacers; Jordan lifts Wizards



GUNDY

PURCHASE, New York—Jeff Van Gundy resigned unexpectedly as head coach of the New York Knicks on Saturday, just as the team was playing its best basketball of the season.

The stunning decision came a day after Van Gundy angrily ended practice early because he thought his players lacked intensity. He said he had been considering resigning since the summer and finally decided to do so because he had "lost focus" as a coach.

"In my heart I knew what was right, but it was still a difficult decision to come to," Van Gundy said at the Knicks' practice facility.

"I didn't feel my focus was at its best. I didn't want to hurt our team. I certainly don't regret the effort I put forth. I just think it's time to step back and let the team move on."

Van Gundy said he spoke with team president Scott Layden several times since the summer to express how he was feeling and that he decided Wednesday—the day after a 14-point road victory over Milwaukee—that he was going to quit.

He's the first NBA coach to resign or be fired this season.

Van Gundy told the players of his decision at their morning shootaround.

Van Gundy took the Knicks to the playoffs in each of his first six seasons, including a trip to the 1999 NBA Finals and two trips to the Eastern Conference finals.

Assistant Don Chaney was to coach New York against the Indiana Pacers at home Saturday night, but the team hadn't chosen a head or interim coach, Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz said.

Meanwhile, with Van Gundy undoubtedly watching from the edge of his easy chair, the New York Knicks began a new era without him by beating the Indiana Pacers, 101-99, Saturday night.

Van Gundy resigned as head coach early Saturday, saying he had lost his focus and had been thinking of quitting since the summer. Van Gundy vowed to watch the game on television.

Don Chaney coached in his place and New York survived a rally led by notorious Knick-killer Reggie Miller to escape with their sixth victory in seven games.

Latrell Sprewell led New York with 25 points. Marcus Camby had 18 points and 22 rebounds, Allan Houston added 18 points and Kurt Thomas had 13 points and 12 rebounds.

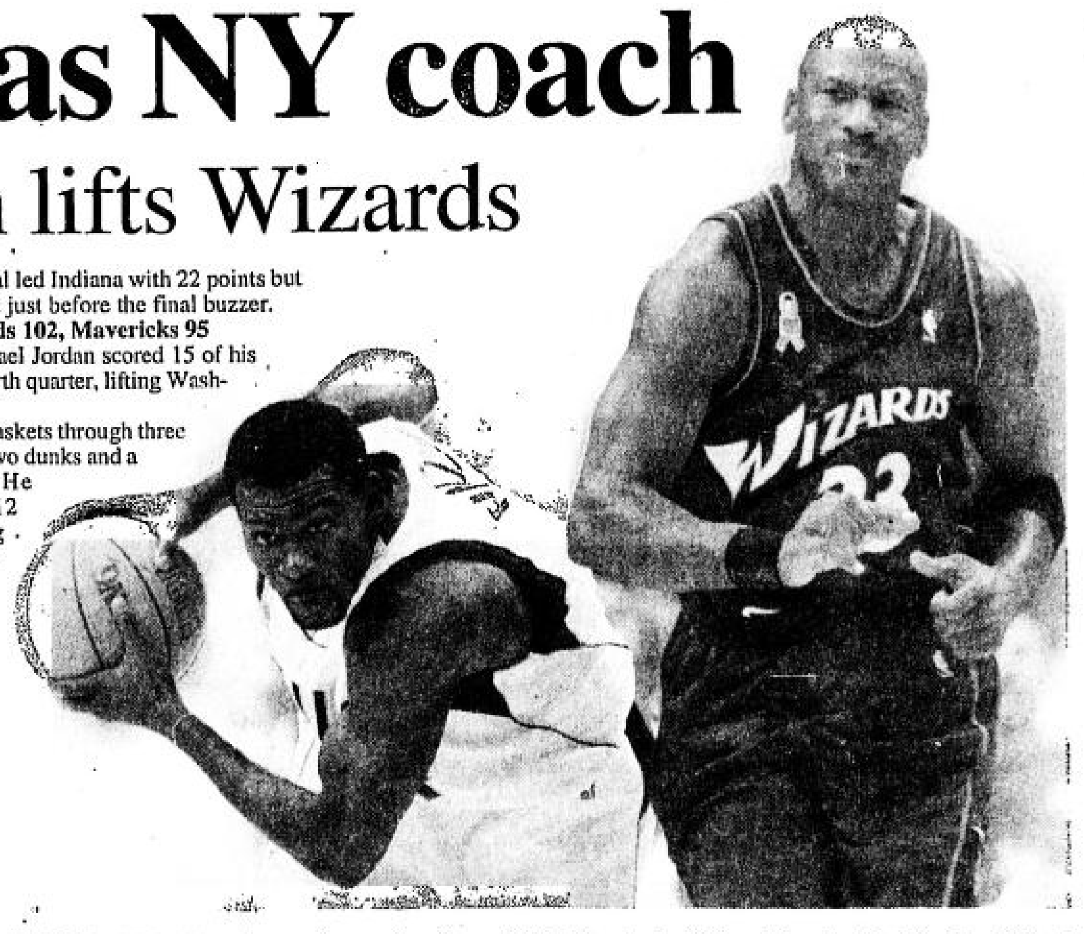
Jermaine O'Neal led Indiana with 22 points but missed a tying shot just before the final buzzer.

Wizards 102, Mavericks 95

In Dallas, Michael Jordan scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, lifting Washington past Dallas.

Jordan's only baskets through three quarters came on two dunks and a vintage layup. He missed his first 12 jumpers, going through two 0-for-6 skids, and his first two free throws.

Complete results—Atlanta 107, Orlando 104; Cleveland 109, Denver 99; New York 101, Indiana 99; Memphis 92, Philadelphia 83; Minnesota 107, Houston 97; Chicago 87, Boston 84; Milwaukee 95, New Jersey 79; Washington 102, Dallas 95; Utah 111, Golden State 101; Portland 113, Seattle 92. *AP*



FRUSTRATION is written all over the face of Washington's Michael Jordan (right) after Dallas' Michael Finley intercepted a pass intended for him in the fourth quarter. AP

Sta. Elena keeps WGAP Cup

CONSISTENCY reaped fruits for Sta. Elena as it successfully retained the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Cup by topping the recent four-team, three-day grand finals recently.

After ruling the eight-leg elimination series sponsored by Callaway in runaway fashion, Sta. Elena continued its winning ways in the finals by outclassing teams from Villamor, Alabang and Riviera.

The Sta. Elena ladies brought home the trophy designed by noted artist Impy Pilapil.

Playing in three neutral courses (Southwoods, the Country Club and Wack Wack), Sta. Elena fielded the best teams in aggregate, scramble, bestball and alternate shots.

Heading into the final day, Sta. Elena was at the helm with 6 points, but Alabang was within striking distance with 4 points.

Having faith in her teammates, Sta. Elena chapter president Rio Co confidently fielded in the tandems of Nancy Co and Lily Chan, Nancy Ortiga and Angie Co, Len Yaptangco and Tami Leung, Shirley Romualdez and Therese Dabao during the final day at Wack Wack.

Although there was apparent pressure on their side, the Sta. Elena players appeared undaunted.

Co recalled that at one point during the final day, one of the tandems was 3-down late in a game. However, instead of giving up, they rallied to square the match and salvage a .5.

Displaying such intestinal fortitude, Sta. Elena went to triumph with 8.5 points, followed surprisingly by Villamor with 6, Alabang with 5 and Riviera with 4.5.

STA. LUCIA TOUR CHAMPS

ENGINEER Winnie Gob (center) and team captain Ging Trinidad hoist the Sta. Lucia Cup after the Eagle Ridge Golf Club clinched overall honors in the Sta. Lucia 2001 Golf Tour for the second straight year. A lady member of the team, Marivic Ignacio (third from right)), scored the series' only hole-in-one on the third hole of the Faldo course while Mario Naval bagged the individual Class B crown.

Ward-Park duo stops Inkster-Pepper

DANA POINT, California—Wendy Ward and Grace Park beat four-time defending champions Juli Inkster and Dottie Pepper on Saturday in the Hyundai Team Matches, with Ward holing a 1-foot (50 cm) birdie putt on the final hole for a 1-up victory.

Ward and Park will face Lorie Kane and Janice Moodie in the championship Sunday. Kane and Moodie, a late replacement for Se Ri Pak, beat Karrie Webb and Kelly Robbins 2 and 1 in the best-ball competition. *AP*

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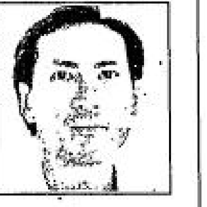
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4144, Series of 2001.

T-Mac to Yankees?

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

DON'T look now but one-time Manila visitor Tracy McGrady of the Orlando Magic may soon be pitching for the New York Yankees. That's if T-Mac's agent Arn Tellem is to be believed.

According to Tellem, the Magic's tri-captain (along with two-time Manila guest Grant Hill, who was placed on the injured list last Dec. 7 due to soreness near the area of the left foot that has undergone two operations in the last 18 months, and playmaker Darrell Armstrong) is interested in playing both basketball and baseball.

"He is looking to start a two-sport career and is a big Yankees fan, but that's for another day," Tellem told the New York Post.

The 22-year-old McGrady has not played baseball since he pitched for his high school, Auburndale, Florida, back in 1996. Little-League coach and former mayor of Auburndale, Richard Raman had nothing but praise for McGrady's baseball skills.

"When Tracy pitched, it wasn't just the batter who was afraid of his arm, the catcher and umpire were scared, too," recalled Raman.

In NBA history, there have been but a few men who were two-sport athletes as a professional.

As best as we can remember, there were a couple of former Boston Celtics who played both major-league baseball and the NBA. One was Gene Conley, a 6-8 frontliner who saw action with the Celtics in 1952-53 then gave up basketball for a bat for five years before rejoining the NBA for the Celtics and New York Knicks through the early 1960s.

Another one was Danny Ainge, who suited up for three seasons (1979-81) with the American League's Toronto Blue Jays as a second baseman and outfielder while still attending Brigham Young University.

In 1981, the 6-5 Ainge signed a three-year deal with the Blue Jays worth an estimated $500,000. That same year, the Celtics selected him in the second round of the NBA draft.

Ainge opted to retire and terminate his Blue Jays contract, which contained a no-pro basketball clause, following a strike in major-league baseball. He subsequently joined the Celtics in December 1981.

Ainge played 14 NBA seasons with Boston, Sacramento, Portland and Phoenix from 1981-95 and was a member of the Celtics' NBA championship teams in 1984 and 1986. He as head coach of the Phoenix Suns for three-plus seasons (1996-1999) after hanging up his jersey. Ainge currently works as a color analyst for NBA games on Turner Sports.

McGrady, who visited Manila in August last year as part of the Adidas Streetball Challenge tour, never played collegiate ball. In 1997, the 6-8 swingman hooked up with Toronto in the NBA. After three seasons with the Raptors, he inked a seven-year, free-agent deal with the Orlando Magic in the summer of 2000.

Now in his fifth NBA campaign, McGrady was averaging 24.5 points (on .434 field-goal shooting, 6.8 rebounds and 5.0 assists in 20 games going into the Magic's trip to Atlanta yesterday (Manila time).

F3 CHALLENGE WINNERS

The top three winners in the Casino Filipino-Asian Formula 3 Challenge, led by overall champion Jojo Silverio of Standard Insurance-Caltex-Team Toms, are shown in photo with Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino (center) during the awarding ceremony at the Casino Filipino recently. Also in photo are Mark Goddard of Castrol-Ghiaports and Philip Alvendia of Kart 1.

3 rule Cavite 7-cock derby

THREE top rated entries emerged co-winners of the highly successful Cavite 7-Cock International derby last week at the Cavite Coliseum in Bacoor. A total of 82 entries joined this event which was sponsored by Casino Filipino-Parañaque, Sagupaan Super Feeds and Calf-Manna concentrated ration.

The winners who posted six points each were UCAP stalwart Pol Estrellado of San Pablo City (PE San Pablo), lawyer Rudy Salud who cohosted the event with Sen. Ramon Revilla (DVH Wining Time and lawyer Aballa (Agilawin).

The three split the total champion's purse of P1.5 million.

Proceeds of this fundraising sports affair will go to the Philippine Center for Mental Health.

Next year's Cavite 7-Cock International derby will be held on Dec. 2, 4 and 6.

Roligon Slasher slated

THE MUCH-AWAITED 1st Luzviminda Slasher Cup 6-Cock Derby starts today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. This will continue on Dec. 12, 15 and 17.

Among the participants in this derby are Raymund Velayo, lawyer Rudy Salud, engineer Jun Sevilla, Blonde Tolentino, Alan Tan, Vic Yu Iking Araneta, Tito Aquino and Roming Vergara of the Luzon group.

From the Visayas, the entries are Juancho Aguirre, Boy Ledesma, Boy Cuadra, Capt. Hechanova, Lance dela Torre, Ricoy Palmares, Marvin Javelosa and those from Bacolod and Iloilo.

Mindanao will be represented by Bebot and Chongkee Uy.

From Metro Manila are Vic Amante, Francis Lumunsad, Francis Afable, Daday Siochi, William Go, William Co, Ricky Castillo, Jimmy Ron Araneta, lawyer Joey Mendoza, Princess Naldo, Cong. Lawrence Wacnang, and many others from Cavite, Bulacan, Marikina, Pampanga and Laguna.

Members of the Galleros de Manila and LGBA led by Boy Diaz will also join this exciting derby.

For inquiries and cockhouse reservation, call Roligon at 833-25-75 or 833-16-38.

NCA tilt

THE ANNUAL cockfighting season of the National Cockers Association kicks off today with the staging of the blockbuster NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

The season-opening derby will be hosted by the NCA, the pioneer and premier organization of noted sportsmen-businessmen headed by Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta.

Best Center goes to Ilocos Sur

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AIMED primarily in getting his conscience, especially, the youngsters, into sports and keeping them away from drugs and other vices, low-key but sportsminded Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano has acquired the expertise of multi-awarded Best Center to conduct the sports development and promotion program of the historic province through a scientific and systematic approach under experienced and competent instructors.

"Our staff will teach coaching and officiating know-how to sports aficionados of Ilocos Sur and the basics of 14 sports disciplines such as basketball, chess, softball and baseball, volleyball taekwondo and swimming," said Best Center founder Nic Jorge. "Basketball officiating will be handled by veteran referees headed by Rolly Omampo, chess by the famous Rodolfo Tan Cardoso, softball and baseball by Hall of Famer Boy Codiñera, volleyball battle tested Kit Santos while I will conduct basketball coaching myself."

Founded in 1978 by the husband-and-wife team of Nic and Marlene Jorge, Best Center has since become the launching pad to fame and fortune of PBA marquee stars such as Jun Limpot, Jerry Codiñera, Benjie Paras and Boybits Victoria. In chess, innovative Mila Emperado organized several youth-oriented tournaments which later gave birth to young luminaries like Mark Paragua, the first Filipino World Youth Rapid (under 14) champion, Palarong Pambansa sensation John Paul Gomez, World Youth (under 12) standout Julio Saderra, UAAP champion Paolo del Mundo and Rachelle Pascua, the first Filipina Chess Olympic medalist.

A former varsity cager of the University of the Philippines, Jorge coached the Philippine team that saw action in the 1978 World basketball Championship and, at age 36, was one of the youngest national coaches ever in local basketball history.

* * *

HAYDEE'S LAMENT. Former swimming champion Haydee Coloso-Espino, also were a total of 10 medals in the Asian Games, is blaming the government for the long delay in releasing the cash incentives for past sports achievers like her. Now in her sixties, Espino said she has not received the benefits supposedly due her since last April 5, 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo approved Republic Act 9064 otherwise known as the "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001."

Espino shone in an era which produced other swim standouts like Gertrudes (Tuding) Lozada and sisters Sandra and Sylvia Von Geise. In the 1954 Manila Asiad, then statuesque Haydee Coloso won the gold in the 100-meter butterfly and shocked the highly fancied Japanese entries in the 100m freestyle to post the biggest upset of the Games.

In Tokyo in 1958, she was a member of the champion 4 x 100m medley relay, aside from winning three silver medals. She did not win any gold in 1962 in Jakarta, but she won a silver in the 400m freestyle and bronzes in the 100m free and 400m medley relay.

"While in Jakarta," she fondly recalled, "I had one of my most memorable moments when then President Sukarno danced with me in the presence of his bodyguards and members of the Philippine delegation at the Merdeka Palace."

Espino said she decided to settle in her native Iloilo City after the family house in Manila's Bilibid Viejo burned a few years back. She is married to retired Customs employee Rodolfo Coloso with whom she has seven children.

***

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Police cancel Xtour

SINGAPORE—Police said on Sunday they have canceled the license for the Singapore leg of the Asian Xtour cycling and skating competition after a teenage stunt cyclist died while practicing for the event.

Singaporean Harry Chau, 14, died Friday, event organizer ESPN Star Sports said in a statement.

ESPN Star Sports initially planned to postpone the beginning of the two-day competition from Saturday to Sunday, setting Saturday aside as a day of remembrance for Chau.

But police said in a news release Sunday that they canceled the license for the event "in view of the ongoing investigations into the cause of death."

Chau died in a Singapore hospital after he completed a stunt jump and his bicycle's handlebars apparently were pushed into his chest. *AP*

MBA SHOWDOWN

Slashers force Finals vs Blades

GAME WEDNESDAY
(La Salle Lipa Sentrum)
5 p.m.—Negros vs LBC Batangas

BY ROY LUARCA

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Slashers sustained a fiery start to clobber the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 107-91, last night and clinch the Southern Conference crown of the MBA second Phase at the packed USLS Gym here.

More important, the Slashers got the chance to challenge the waiting LBC Batangas Blades, the Northern Conference champion, for the national title starting on Wednesday at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum in Lipa City, Batangas.

The Slashers allowed the Gems to score the first basket before cutting loose with a 20-4 salvo that eventually led to their Game 5 victory and 3-2 edge in the best-of-five series.

The Gems never recovered from that onslaught as the Slashers, drawing balanced scoring from their bench, led by as many as 24 points twice in the third quarter to assert their superiority at their homecourt.

Ruben dela Rosa, silent in the first four games, finally exploded with 17 points to share best player honors with Cid White, who also wound up with 18 points aside from 9 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals.

It was also Dela Rosa who triggered the Slashers' second breakaway, pumping in seven points in a 9-point cluster that shoved them ahead, 52-30, with 2 minutes and 35 seconds to go.

Atoning for their Game One blunder when they allowed the Slashers to come back from a bid deficit to win at the USLS Gym, the Slashers never let up on defense as the Gems could come no closer than the final count.

Though the outcome was beyond doubt, 86-67, with six minutes left, there were coin-throwing incidents on the floor after Melvin Taguines was slapped a technical foul and Peter Naron engaged Negros' Leo bat-og in a verbal tussle.

Scores:

NEGROS 107—White 18, Cardel 18, Dela Rosa 17, Madrid 11, Bat-og 10, Huelar 7, Hugnatan 6, Ferriols 6, Aldeguer 6, Ignacio 4, Benedicto 2, Tierra 2.

CEBUANAS LHUILLEIR 91—Naron 17, Se 13, Sayon 9, Lura 8, Mejia 8, Yu 7, Jose 6, Solis 6, de Jesus 6, Santamaria 4, Taguines 4, Padilla 3.

Quartrs: 34-19, 58-37, 79-56, 107-91.

Ballester, Martes repeat

BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

ALLAN Ballester and Christabel Martes ruled their respective divisions for the second consecutive year in the 42-kilometer race of the 25th Milo Marathon Finals yesterday at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

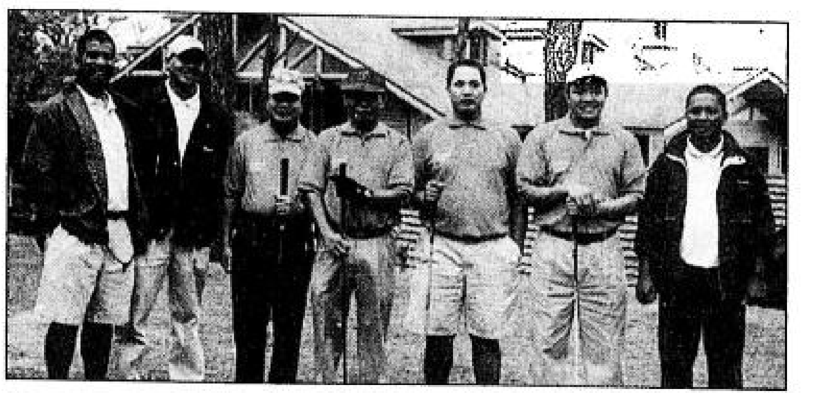
Despite the rains, Ballester clocked in a blistering time of 2:23:47 in the men's division, smashing the previous meet record held by Roy Vence in 1998 by five seconds. The 25-year Sorsogon native was followed in second place by Crisanto Canillo Jr. with a time 2:25:15, while Rovel Canillo took third place at 2:34:40.

Martes, who won the 21st SEA Games gold medal in the marathon, topped the women's side in 3:00:23. The 21-year old champion's performance was actually far from her personal best as she ran with a slightly injured right leg. Martes sustained the said injury during training in Benguet last week.

Despite her handicap, Martes' effort proved to be enough as her closest rival, Flordeliza Cachero, was close to nine minutes behind at 3:09:14. Third place went to Thailand's Apassara Pransathinphim, who registered a time of 3:09:51.

Ballester won P75,000 and a trophy, while Martes received P50,000 plus trophy. The two also claimed an additional P25,000 each as a bonus prize in celebration of the event's silver anniversary.

The Milo Marathon, the country's biggest annual running event also drew over 7,000 participants. The finals included a 10-kilometer race, a 5-kilometer fun run, a 5-kilometer media run for sports journalists and a 3-kilometer kiddie run.



FIL-AM TEAM

Crystal Dew Bottling marked its entry into the distilled water business by fielding a team in the centerpiece event of the recently concluded 52nd Men's Fil-Am amateur International Golf Championships in Baguio City. Shown are Crystal Dew players (third from left) Mario Tangonan, Nilo Dalot, Dong Sumampong and Alex Ignacio. The team was backed by pro golfers Cassius Casas, Peter Minoza and Tony Lascuna.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Memphis vs Mississippi at 6:30 a.m. (r) Arkansas vs Illinois at 2 p.m. (r), Florida vs South Florida at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA – Charlotte Hornets vs L.A. Clippers at 10 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Solar Channel (Sky and Home Cable)

This Week in the NBA at 12:30 p.m. on CNN

Women's NCAA - Louisiana Tech vs Connecticut at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Primetime at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN

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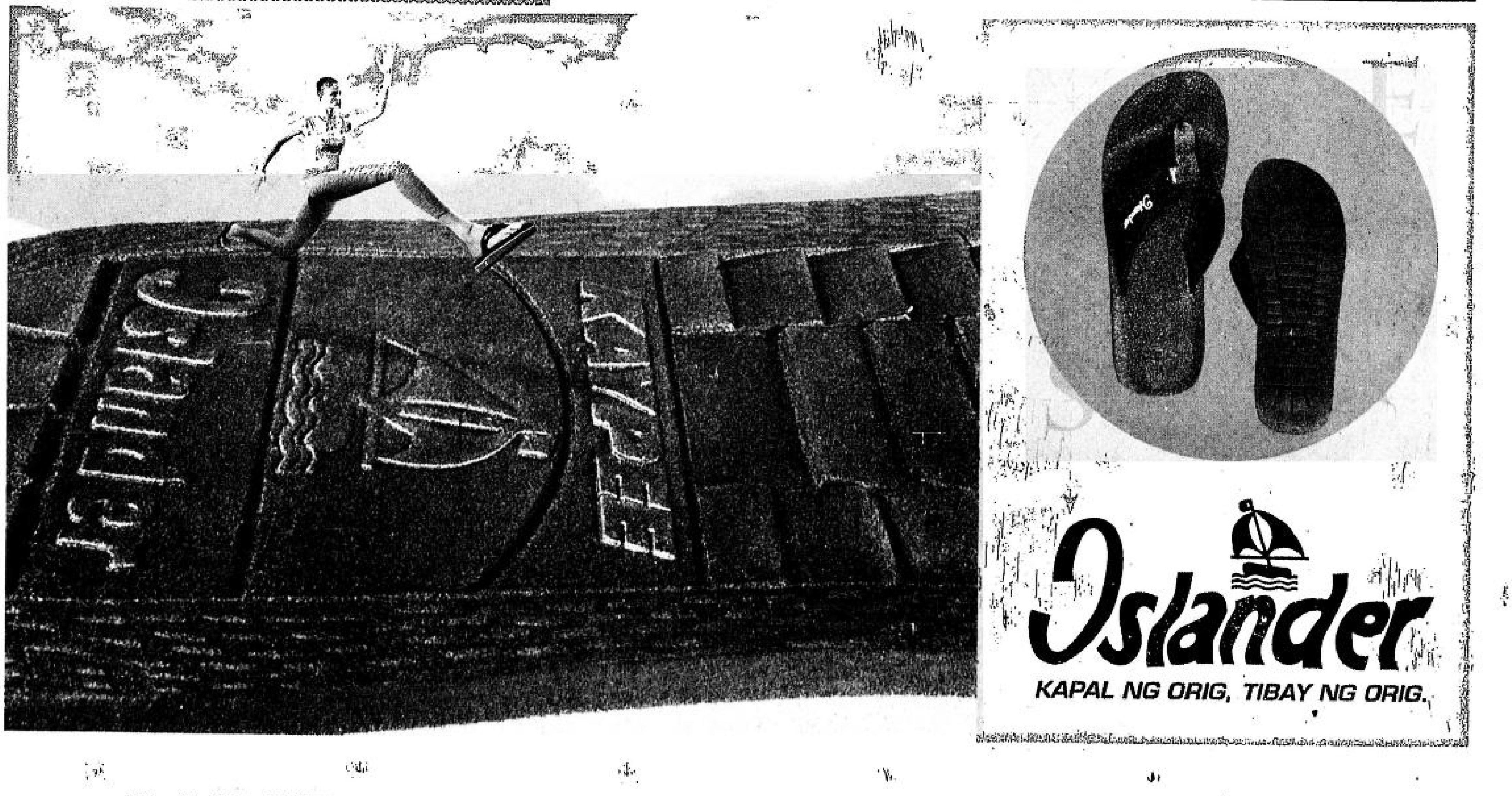

Islander
KAPAL NG ORIG, TIBAY NG ORIG.

DLSU-Dasma cagers shine

THE DE La Salle University-Dasmariñas cagebelles picked up two straight wins over the weekend to close in on B leaderr Lyceum yesterday in the NCRAA seniors basketball tournament at the PMI gym. DLSU-D followed up its 37-35 win Over University of Asia and the Pacific last Saturday by beating Emilio Aguinaldo College, 66-52, for a 4-1 card behind the Pirates (4-0).

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PSA Forum tomorrow

SPORTS officials of the two leading provinces bidding for the hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games will be the main guests in the PSA Forum tomorrow at the Holiday Inn hotel, Pampanga board representative Yeng Guiao, also head coach of Red Bull in the PBA, and Bacolod City Rep. Monico Fuentevella will appear before sportswriters in the public service program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and McDonald's.

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Sta. Lucia grabs 2-1 lead

GAME WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
7 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel (Game 4)

BY JUNE NAVARRO

STA. Lucia Realty subdued San Miguel Beer, 83-74, last night and gained a one game advantage in the PBA Governors Cup Finals at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

Damien Owens typified the Realtors' gutsy stand and powered his team to a 2-1 edge against the Beermen in their best-of-seven showdown.

Showing why he's the Best Import of the Conference, Owens knocked in a game-high 32 points, 14 of which came in the second half.

The Realtors also bucked a couple of bad calls in the third quarter that nearly changed the complexion of the game.

Referee Franco Ilagan gave ball possession to the Beermen after Danny Seigle slipped and dribbled out of bounds at the sidelines with barely three minutes remaining in that period.

Later on, Lamont Strothers dribbled on his foot and sent the ball sailing toward the endline but game officials awarded possession to the Beermen.

"It takes four games to win a championship but at least we got back the momentum we badly need going into Game 4," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black.

Anchored on the prolific exploits of Owens, the Realtors made the Beermen grope for form as they fluidly ran the breaks to slowly pull away from a tight contest.

Owens had 18 points during a big run as the Realtors zoomed to a 43-31 advantage late in the first half.

Olsen Racela canned two free throws, while Dorian Peña scored on a putback to cut down the lead but Gerard Francisco hit a gun-beating triple that saw the Realtors posting a 48-35 margin at halftime.

Meanwhile, San Miguel Beer's Danny Ildefonso captured the Most Valuable Player award for the second year in a row to steal the limelight from Seigle and Racela.

The 25-year-old Ildefonso copped the award after garnering a total of 11,129 points accumulated through statistical points, players and media votes and nod of the five-man PBA awards committee.

But unlike last year where he engaged Seigle in a tooth-and-nail battle for the citation, Ildefonso was a runaway winner this time.

Seigle, who saw little action in the Governors Cup due to a back injury, landed second with a measly total of 1,950 points or roughly 9,200 points off Ildefonso's output. Racela landed third with 1,762 points.

Before pocketing the MVP, Ildefonso also set another milestone as the Urdaneta, Pangasinan native grabbed his fifth straight Player of the Conference citation dating back from last year's Commissioners Cup.

Rounding out the Mythical 10 were Noy Castillo of Purefoods (930), Alaska's Kenneth Duremdes (1006), San Miguel's Nic Belasco (974), Pop Cola's Rudy Hatfield (895) and Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull (532).

Noy Castillo of Purefoods bagged the Most Improved Player award, while Barangay Ginebra's Mark Caguioa convincingly grabbed the Rookie of the Year plum.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 83—Owens 32, Francisco 15, Belano 12, Aquino 11, Espino 9, Falcasantos 2, Del Rosario 2, Mendoza 0, Tan 0.

SAN MIGUEL 74—Strothers 25, Seigle 15, Ildefonso 9, Belasco 7, Peña 7, Victoria 6, Lago 3, Racela 2.

Quarters: 19-16; 48-35; 60-55; 83-74.

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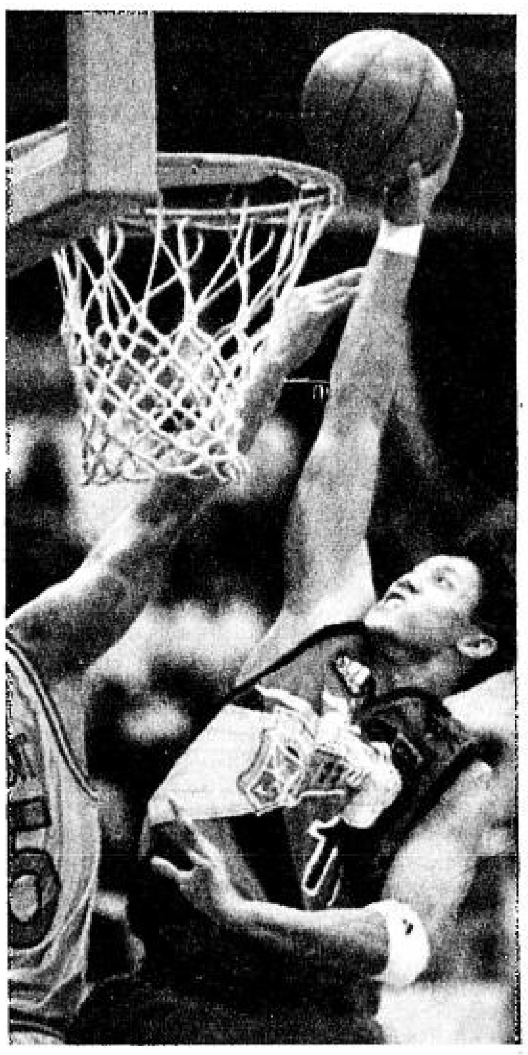

ILDEFONSO

Young cagers can't say no to RP tryouts

BY DENNIS EROA

RITUALO

THE COUNTRY'S future basketball superstars said being invited to join today's tryouts for the Asiad-bound national team is a privilege, but they are not expecting big things to happen.

"This is a national call which I cannot say no to," said Welcoat gunner Ren Ren Ritualo, one of three players from the PBL who was invited by national coach Ron Jacobs to the tryouts at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center inside the sprawling Ateneo campus in Katipunan, Quezon City.

Ritualo's teammate Yancy de Ocampo echoed Ritualo's sentiments. "I'm privileged to be able to join some of my idols," the 6-foot-8 De Ocampo told the INQUIRER.

Like the 22-year-old Ritualo, De Ocampo said failing to make Ron Jacobs' standard isn't going to make him sad. "Just being in the tryouts is already an achievement."

The third PBL dribbler who will join the aspirants is 6-foot La Salle playmaker Mike Cortez, who has already impressed Jacobs. Cortez, now playing for the International Container Terminal Services Inc.-Archers, said he'll try his luck but will not be disappointed if he'll not be able to make it.

Called the "Postman," De Ocampo is currently third in the PBL statistical race, followed by Ritualo, who averages 17.3 points in the ongoing Challenge Cup. De Ocampo runs second to ICTSI Archers Dominic Uy in the rebounding department with 10 boards per game on top of a 13.1 scoring clip.

Surprisingly not among those invited was Sta. Lucia Realty hotshot Paolo Mendoza. Experts agree that Mendoza, who is playing a crucial role in Sta. Lucia's title-bid against San Miguel Beer in the ongoing Governors Cup, will be a tremendous boost to the national team since his outside snipings can disrupt the famed Chinese zone.

Instead of Mendoza, those invited in the tryouts were Ginebra playmaker Jay Jay Helterbrand, San Miguel's Olsen Racela, Red Bull's Jimwell Torion and Willie Miller and Pop Cola's Johnny Abarrientos.

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Dirty Harry' is back

LIM

EVEN if Alfredo Lim had not been able to regain his post of mayor of Manila in the last elections, he would be back in the role of crime buster, taking over the National Anti-Crime Commission by May next year.

A police general who is very close to Lim said the former secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government would replace Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, who, by that time, is expected to become chief of the Philippine National Police, the general said.

The former Manila mayor's entry to the NACC is expected to boost the efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom groups that have been alarmingly active under Ebdane's leadership, according to the general. Ms Macapagal had expressed dismay over the apparent failure of the law enforcement agencies to curb criminality, thus derailing her administration's efforts to revitalize the economy. Lim's appointment is expected to strengthen the government's campaign against kidnapping, the general said.

DIRTY/A27

Dolphy and sons bag Brussels' top acting plums

By Leah Salterio

FOR the first time in the history of the prestigious Brussels International Independent Festival, the best actor and best actress awards were awarded to three actors.

Ace comedian Dolphy and his two sons Eric and Jeffrey Quizon on Saturday received top honors for their portrayals in the biopic "Markova: Comfort Gay" from the Brussels festival, which was held last month.

Festival director Robert Malengreau, who arrived in the country to grace the ongoing

DOLPHY/A27

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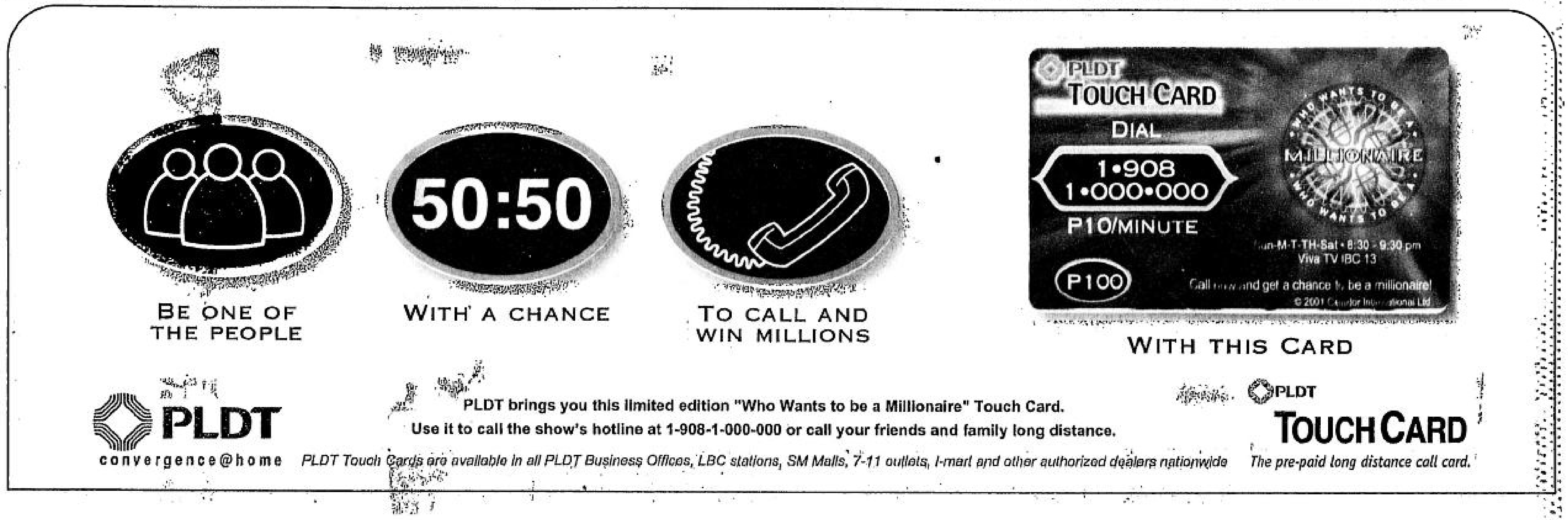

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Referee in Peñalosa's dirty defeat suspended

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LARRY O'Connel, the referee who worked it blind and allowed Gerry Peñalosa to be repeatedly gored by a terrorist masquerading as a world boxing champion in Yokohama, has been suspended.

This decision, announced during last week's World Boxing Council convention in Pattaya, Thailand, clearly confirmed that Peñalosa was cheated in his last bid for the world super flyweight boxing championship in September.

O'Connel will not be getting any assignments, bared lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud who attended the WBC convention before returning to share the championship in the Cavite Coliseum International 7-Cock Derby hosted by Sen. Ramon Revilla.

Salud, Peñalosa's manager, said O'Connel's record and past performances will be subjected to a review, with the possibility of the controversial official getting a permanent ban from the WBC.

O'Connel was the third man in the ring who allowed WBC 115-pound champ Masumori Tokuyama to headbutt Peñalosa at least six times.

The number of unrecognized fouls was reported by Chuck Williams, one of the three officials who worked the championship.

***

Returning from the Pattaya trip, Salud said Williams gave an official report to the WBC central board that readily upheld the protest from the Peñalosa camp.

The WBC, although failing to penalize Tokuyama, has awarded Peñalosa another crack at the WBC super flyweight crown.

Peñalosa's title fight could be against Tokuyama sometime next September. Or much earlier. If Tokuyama fails in his next title defense slated in March, Peñalosa would be made to challenge the conqueror of the tall and wily WBC 115-pound crownholder.

Salud said Williams explained that he had voted in favor of Peñalosa's opponent because the referee did not rule against the headbutts.

"He made it appear that Peñalosa was bloodied by legitimate punches," Salud quoted Williams as reporting.

Peñalosa has repeatedly complained against Tokuyama's foul tactics, but O'Connel preferred to play it blind and deaf.

Salud, aghast over the atrocity, filed a protest with the WBC which tabled the matter in the Pattaya convention.

***

Well, the big news here last week from the WBC confab was about the third mandatory crack at the crown Peñalosa has been rewarded with.

The impact of the news had obviously overshadowed the exact merit of the successful protest filed by Salud and his party.

Although Peñalosa, who's pushing 30, has been rewarded with another crack at the world crown, there were also immediate claims that the success scored by the Filipino group in the WBC was an empty victory.

Why? Because there were many preconditions that could push Gerry's next bid for the world title indefinitely.

First Tokuyama has to make a next title defense. If he wins, he would be made to make another title defense before Peñalosa could get a clear picture of whom he would be meeting in his next world title bid.

***

Not to worry, explained Salud, Peñalosa's manager.

Peñalosa's next crown bid could drag on until late next year, but it would be just perfect, Salud maintained.

He said that considering Peñalosa's last fight in Tokuyama, he would have not allowed his talented fighter to get an immediate crack at Tokuyama's crown.

Salud was first in confirming that Peñalosa failed to dish out his best against Tokuyama in Yokohama.

Peñalosa had indeed been fouled repeatedly, but Salud said this should not detract from the fact that Gerry had failed to fight as planned.

There was something wrong, Salud said, Gerry was slower and often very tentative.

As a solution, Salud said he would ask Fred Roach, the California-based American trainer who had chiseled off the raw edges from IBF super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao, to give Peñalosa a look-see.

Salud said that if Roach finds something worth improving in Peñalosa, he would send his fighter to pitch camp with Roach in California for at least two months early next year.

***

Actually, Roach, was supposed to have come to Manila this month upon the invitation of Pacquiao's main handlers, Rod Nazario and Lito Mondejar, both trusted allies of Salud.

Mondejar however said Roach has postponed his Manila trip until the middle of January as he had at least two boxers fighting this month.

That, Roach's Manila visit, is indeed welcome news for Salud and Peñalosa.

Not only that. As he could be expected to impart his knowledge to Filipino fighters and their trainers, his hosts said Roach could be made available for a larger number of boxing students, including cornermen and other concerned boxing hands.

Mondejar has agreed to a proposal from officers of the Philippine Sportswriters Association for Roach to be the main resource person in a boxing clinic, a sort of mini academy, this reporter has been planning to put up these past months.

Expected to be invited in the projected boxing clinic are boxers, trainers and other interested parties from the far-off provinces in Mindanao and the Visayas.

The projected boxing clinic to be conducted by Roach, together with the brilliance the tested American trainer is expected to drum into Peñalosa's system, should make it a win-win period for Philippine boxing early next year.

Aglipay rules could lead to more crimes

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

ERIK ARAZAS

NCRPO Chief Edgar Aglipay may have opened Pandora's Box when he ordered all five police districts in Metro Manila to conduct roll call formations everyday. The order, unpopular to the men in blue, evoked a kind of wonder in this boy, who may be asking, "is it for real?"

SOME Manila policemen yesterday said the new disciplinary rules that are being enforced in the metro police force might result in higher crime rates in the city.

Several rank and file members of the Western Police District said yesterday that the "draconian" rules are not only causing demoralization among the police ranks, but are also forcing the policemen to shorten their time for their investigative work so they could attend the roll call formation.

"This could lead to a higher crime rate. Investigators now would be discouraged to go on overtime to follow up their cases because they might get late in their next formation," said a policeman, who wanted to remain anonymous.

Besides attendance at the roll call formation before the start of their shift, lawmen are also required to attend a "regrouping" formation before they go off duty to make sure that they did not leave before their shift ended.

The policeman noted that an "industrious investigator" from WPD Station 6 was shipped to Bicol after he failed to attend a formation.

"He was industrious and would work even into the night just to solve his cases," the source said. "But he was transferred to Bicol, just like that. I hope they would also look at the policeman's record before they ship him out."

Director Edgar Aglipay, National Capital Region Police Office chief and author of the new rules said that an erring policeman would only be transferred to the provinces if he has no valid reason for his tardiness or absence, or if he was found to be "recidivist."

But another policeman argued that Aglipay only tells that to the media.

"In reality, some were transferred even at the slightest mistake, like having the wrong shoes," said the policeman. "We can't even complain because they immediately implement the transfer."

He said they were not against a more disciplined police force, but he maintained that the new rules should be implemented fairly "and with due process."

The lawman added that the police hierarchy was determined to go on with the "harsh implementation" of the new rules because there are new recruits who are "more than willing" to replace the old policemen.

Activist cries 'police brutality'

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A MEMBER of the youth activist group Anakbayan has accused two policemen and their superior from the Western Police district of brutality after a rally of the urban group Kadamay in Mendiola on Friday.

Marxis Nantes, 21, of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, on Saturday accused WPD policemen of abducting him, then threatening to shoot him if he did not turn himself in.

But Nantes said he was not able to get the names of the policemen, although he claimed he would be able to identify them if he came face to face with them again.

The activist narrated his tale of police brutality at a press conference of human rights groups in Quezon City on Saturday. He said the sufferings he experienced in the hands of the policemen were something he could not forget and showed bruises in his body.

Nantes related that he was waiting for the service bus that would bring him and his fellow activists home to San Jose del Monte when two policemen grabbed one of his two companions in front of the San Sebastian College on Recto Avenue about 6 p.m. Friday.

While his friend was able to resist the policemen, Nantes said that this sent the two officers running after him.

"My other companion and I were so surprised that we started to run away," he said. "Unfortunately, I was cornered in a dimly lit part on Recto," he said in Filipino.

Nantes said the two policemen allegedly threatened to shoot at him, so that he stopped running and turned himself in.

But as soon as the policemen got hold of him, they allegedly accused him of peddling drugs and snatching, Nantes said. He said that he was handcuffed, dragged to a police car and was brought to a police precinct in Plaza Miranda.

Before he was brought inside the station, the policemen instructed him to run toward a dark area in Quiapo while they aimed their firearms at him, Nantes claimed.

"I had no other recourse but to plead. After that, they brought me inside the precinct and took turns in kicking and punching me in the stomach," said Nantes.

He said that even one of the policemen's superiors, whom he identified as Inspector Eliseo, hit him several times and called him a "snatcher" and "drug pusher."

Nantes said he was also made to sweep the floor and wash the dishes after the policemen finished beating him up. He was only released about 11:30 p.m. after members of the human rights group Karapatan called up the police station looking for him.

Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, said Karapatan had called up all the police precincts in Manila, but none had admitted to arresting and detaining Nantes.

"The policemen even made sure that no one from my group was outside the station when they finally let me go," Nantes said. "They also told me not to go to Manila if only to join any more rallies."In a phone call to the WPD Station 3, which is located in Plaza Miranda, the person who answered the call denied having detained any Marxis Nantes or any Anakbayan member on Friday night. But the person on the other end of the line put down the phone when asked if an Inspector Eliseo was detailed at the police station. ***With Leslee Ann Monilla and Treceline Cabigas***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, December 10, 2001
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: **Is 35:1-10**
Gospel: **Lk 5:17-26**

One day Jesus was teaching and many Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every part of Galilee and Judea and even from Jerusalem. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick. Then some men brought a paralyzed man who lay on his mat. They tried to enter the house to place him before Jesus, but they couldn't find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven." At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to wonder, "This man insults God! Who can forgive sins but only God?"

But Jesus knew their thoughts and asked them, "Why are you reacting like this? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or: 'Get up and walk'? Now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." And Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." At once the man stood before them. He took up the mat he had been lying on and went home praising God.

Amazement seized the people and they praised God. They were filled with a holy fear and said, "What wonderful things we have seen today!"

Commentary

The Gospel says that, gathered before Jesus were the "pharisees and teachers of the Law who came from every town of Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem." It was not a friendly group. We can assume that they were out to catch him committing some mistakes. But Jesus knew no fear and neither did he mind what people would say. His mission transcended all this. That is why the Gospel makes it very clear that "the power of the Lord made him heal the sick." Jesus was above any kind of political speculation. His actions were not driven by a desire to be applauded by his audience. His supreme freedom was at the service of his mission: to heal the sick and save the oppressed.

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Anti-colorum vehicle drive to cover Quiapo

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez on Friday expanded his campaign against colorum buses and jeepneys in Metro Manila.

Following the successful anti-colorum drive at Edsa, the DOTC chief said he will duplicate the drive in the Quiapo area.

He said colorum and legitimate transport operators converge in Quiapo, creating monstrous traffic jams in the area.

The anti-colorum drive launched at Edsa earlier this month proved successful, with the apprehension of more than one thousand public utility buses.

Most of the public utility vehicles that were impounded were penalized for various violations ranging from operating out of line, operating without franchise and unregistered vehicles.

Alvarez said the drive resulted in freer flow of traffic on Edsa, a feat he wanted to duplicate in Quiapo and other areas.

Drunk student wounds 2 in Malate shooting

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

AFTER a drinking spree, student Lou Carlston W. Abay went on a shooting spree in Malate, Manila, and injured a Manila policeman and a security guard.

Abay, 20, of 917 P. Noval St. in Sampaloc, Manila was himself wounded in the left leg after he allegedly shot PO1 Roderick Lopena, of the Western Police District-Mobile Patrol Unit, and security guard Edgar V. Selvana, 29, of 65 St., Tatalon, Quezon City with a .22 revolver, said investigator SPO1 Bertito Pineda, of the Ermita police station.

Lopena was shot in the stomach and left leg, while Selvana was hit in his left arm, police said.

The shooting happened about 2:30 a.m. at the corner Jorge Bocobo and T. Alonzo streets in Malate, Manila.

Police said Abay and his friends, Jay R G. Santos, 20; Geruel A. Estrada, 24; and Robert D. De Guzman, 20; were allegedly drunk and confronted another group of men, one of whom was 22-year-old Arnold D. Moises, a student.

At the height of their confrontation, Abay allegedly pulled out his gun and shot Moises, but missed, police said.

Selvana, a security guard at Cognac Bar, heard the gunshot and checked out what happened. He also fired his shotgun several times in the air to scare off Abay, police said.

Instead of stopping, Abay opened fire and hit Selvana, police said.

PO1 Lopena and SPO4 Rey Cocson, of the WPD Mobile Patrol Unit, arrived a few moments later. Lopena tried to arrest Abay, who fired at him instead of giving up, police said. Lopena was hit twice, but he managed to shot back and wound Abay in the leg.

Abay was still able to escape after the shooting, but police traced him at the Ospital ng Maynila.

Selvana was brought to the same hospital, while Lopena was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital.

SPO1 Pineda said Abay's gun and five empty shells were found at the crime scene. He said Abay would be charged with frustrated homicide and attempted homicide.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW—BILL OF RIGHTS)—Right to confrontation of an accused—The right of an accused to confront his accuser is found in paragraph 2, Section 14, Article III of the 1987 Constitution. The right to confrontation is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution to the person facing criminal prosecution who should know, in fairness, who his accusers are and must be given a chance to cross-examine them on their charges. The chief purpose of the right of confrontation is to secure the opportunity for cross-examination, so that if the opportunity for cross-examination has been secured, the function and test of confrontation has also been accomplished, the confrontation being merely the dramatic preliminary to cross-examination. In the instant case, the accused-appellant's right to confrontation was observed when complainant was presented on the witness stand and, after her testimony, the counsel for accused-appellant conducted his cross-examination. In this regard, the presiding judge of trial court committed no error in disallowing counsel for defendant from asking questions regarding the affidavit of desistance executed by complainant and her mother. [Citations omitted. [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Martinez v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 123547, May 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Pasay to P'que: 'Go slow in auctioning off Naia'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PASAY City government has asked Parañaque officials to reconsider their decision to auction off the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, warning that the move would result in many legal complications.

"*Tingin ko magkakademandahan* (I think there will be a lot of lawsuits if Parañaque proceeds with the auction)," said lawyer Ernestina Carvajal, Pasay City administrator on Friday.

Carvajal said Parañaque could not just auction off the Naia property because Pasay has claimed part of the same property.

The airport owes Pasay about P750 million in real estate tax as of this year, Carvajal said.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez last week threatened to auction off Naia before Christmas for the alleged failure of airport authorities to settle their P650-million land tax debt to the city since 1992.

If there are no takers in the auction, the Parañaque government will buy the property based on its current market value, Marquez had said.

But Carvajal said Parañaque could not auction off the airport "just like that" since the local government first has to settle a lot of legal obligations.

"But if, in theory, the auction proceeds, Parañaque will in effect own a property located in Pasay," Carvajal said. "That would be another problem. It's very complicated."

It that happens, Parañaque may have to pay the airport's real estate taxes in Pasay, Carvajal said.

Both city governments, she said, had previously agreed to equally divide the land taxes paid by Naia. Under the agreement, Pasay will collect the taxes from the airport and remit a certain amount to Parañaque.

Carvajal said the agreement practically failed since the airport supposedly refused to pay its land taxes.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad is now looking at a viable and "not a drastic solution," to settle the tax row, Carvajal said.

"The mayor is not inclined to auction off Naia," he said. "He wants a solution that would be beneficial both to the national and local governments."

Indian trader loses P.2M to 'bank VP'

By Philip C. Tubeza

INDIAN tourist Yogesh Marhawa, 36, lost nearly P200,000 to a man who pretended to be a vice president of CitiBank.

Marhawa, a businessman, who is currently billeted at the Hotel Palm Plaza on Adriatico in Ermita, Manila was drugged and divested of P190,000 worth of cash and valuables, including a Compaq Presario laptop computer, said investigator SPO3 Cecillo Sacorum, of the Western Police District-General Assignment Section.

The suspect, believed to be a member of the Ativan gang, took Marhawa's P120,000 laptop, a P23,000 gold ring, a P13,000 gold necklace, clothes worth P5,000; a P4,000 Canon camera and spectacles worth P3,000, Sacorum said.

He also took his credit card, which could only be used in India and Nepal, and P14,000 and $200 in cash.

Sacorum believed that the man who posed as a bank executive had an accomplice.

Police said Marhawa had just left the Bureau of Immigration and was walking inside Intramuros when the suspect befriended him and introduced himself as a vice president of Citibank.

Marhawa told police the suspect even gave him a Citibank calling card.

When the suspect offered Marhawa a ride back to his hotel, he accepted the offer and some juice to drink.

After drinking the juice inside the suspect's car, Marhawa passed out and woke up yesterday inside his hotel rooms. He also found his money and valuables missing, police said.

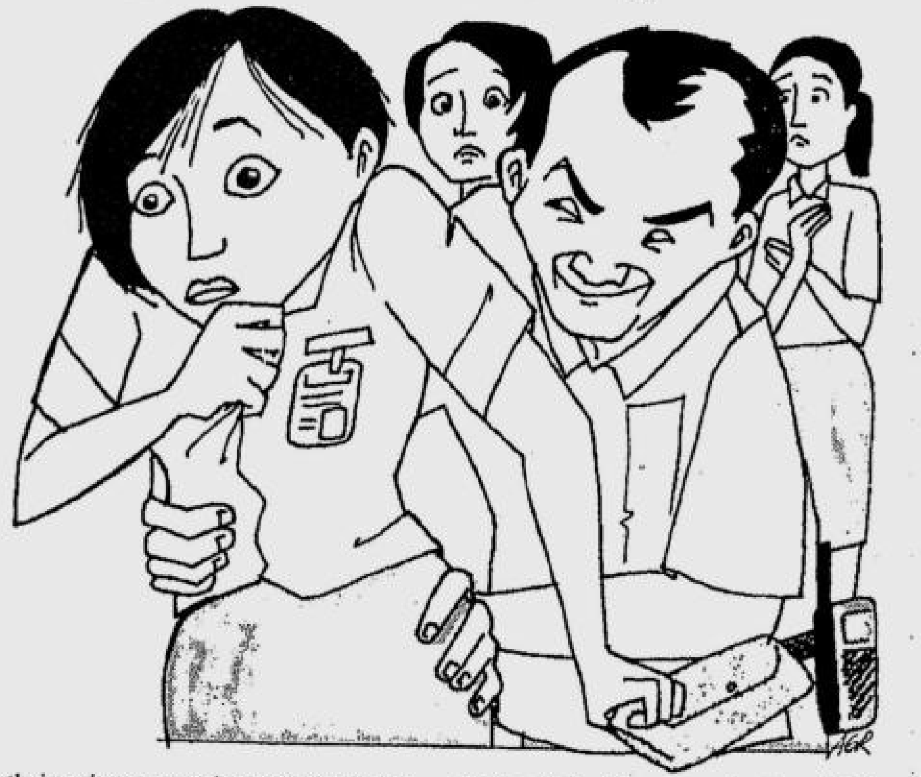
The hotel's house detective, Ryl Mijares, told police that an unidentified driver of a Burritos En Paris taxi (PWX-491) brought Marhawa to the hotel about 10:40 p.m. on Saturday.

Mijares said the driver had told him he picked up the Indian businessman in Bulacan.

Police are now preparing a sketch of the suspect, whom Marhawa said he would recognize if he saw him again.

Sales ladies asked to show legs at work, according to study

By Gerald G. Lacuarta



YOUNG, single, independent, and sexually harassed.

This is the profile of women contractual workers today who bear the indignities and sexual advances in the workplace just to get hired and keep their jobs, according to a study by the Center for Women's Resources among 420 contractual workers in 37 companies nationwide.

Gert Ranjo Libang, CWR executive director, said women contractual workers who were interviewed in the study preferred to ignore sexual advances in the workplace for fear that they would lose their jobs earlier than stipulated in their contracts.

"What is worse is that a number of the women respondents viewed the sexual advances made by superiors or company owners as a sign that they will become regular workers," Libang said during the launching of the Koalisyon Laban sa Kontraktwalisasyon at the Max's Restaurant in Quezon City last week.

For example, workers at Shoe Mart recounted experiences of being asked to pull up their skirts to reveal their underwear to supervisors who suspected that they had slipped merchandise beneath their clothes, Libang said. He said one female worker has not forgotten how her supervisor suddenly unzipped her skirt to check if she was wearing a girdle, which was supposedly not allowed.

Libang said contractual workers get a first taste of sexual harassment when they apply for jobs, particularly in the wholesale and retail sections of department stores. At SM, applicants for salesladies are asked to show their legs to prove that they don't have ugly scars or bumps, Libang said.

As many as 10,000 contractual workers, most of them women, are hired every month by SM management on three to five months contracts, according to Maristel Garcia, president of the Samahan ng mga Mangaggawa sa SM. She said even employees of concessionaires at SM malls are frisked down to their private parts by security personnel.

The study showed that in a garments factory in Taguig, which manufactures export brands such as Oshkosh B'gosh, Old Navy and Tommy Hilfiger, women workers who decline overtime work because of menstruation are asked to bend over to show their blood stains to male guards. And in some companies at the Cavite Export Processing Zone, CWR researchers found out that some women who excuse themselves from work due to dysmenorrhea have to show their wet sanitary napkins before managers would allow them to go home.

"The difficulty of finding jobs and the widespread practice of contractualization are pushing our women contractual workers to begin accepting acts of sexual harassment such as touching as part of employment. By not resisting and reporting such acts, they feel that they have more chances of getting rehired," the study said.

The study said women contractual workers often just chose to play blind to such acts lest they earn the ire of their supervisors and get fired. One worker from the Cavite Export Processing Zone even told researchers: "If you don't want to be touched, just avoid it."

Most of women contractual workers are aged 18 to 25, single, and high school graduates. A majority also live away from their families, the study said.

Libang said what was alarming was the view of some contractual workers that to get noticed by supervisors or employers, even if by acts of sexual harassment, was an advantage in eventually getting hired as regular workers.

"If our male supervisors or employers wink or smile at us, that means we have a big chance of getting regularized," said a respondent.

Lana Linaban, spokesperson of the militant women's group Gabriela, said contractualization has denied women workers of their basic right to job security, just wages and rightful benefits.

"It degrades, demeans and dehumanizes women workers," Linaban said.

BRUSSELS International Independent Film Festival best actor/best actress awardees—Dolphy and his two sons Eric and Jeffrey Quizon—with festival director Robert Malengreau and "Markova: Comfort Gay" director Gil Portes (extreme left).

Dolphy and sons bag ...

(From page A25)

Cinemanila Film Festival in Makati, brought the trophies with him and awarded them to the winners.

"They're so good that the jurors were very impressed and gave them both the best actor and best actress awards," Malengreau said. "In the history of the festival, it's only now that there's a triple tie and they gave both awards to three actors."

The program of the Brussels Film Festival also heaped praises on the Quizons.

"The two prizes were awarded to three actors playing one character at different periods in his life," it said. "With a mixture of emotion and humor, the co-existence of masculinity and femininity in each human being is thus brilliantly illustrated."

A rave review of "Markova" also came out in Le Sour, the most popular newspaper in Belgium.

"Markova: Comfort Gay" is based on the life of Walter Dempster Jr. (a.k.a. Walterina Markova), who was turned into a comfort gay by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Dolphy himself produced "Markova" under his RVQ Productions, and was an entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival last year. Gil Portes directed the movie from a script by Doy del Mundo.

Its recent unprecedented victory in the Brussels film festival has renewed interest in the movie and it would be re-issued in all SM Cinemas starting Dec. 12, said Eric.

"A lot of people didn't get to watch 'Markova' after the Dec. 30 bombings last year," said Eric, who played a comfort gay in the film. "We are releasing it again to them a chance to see it."

Flushed with this recent triumph, Eric recalled how he had to shed 36 pounds before he faced the cameras for "Markova."

"I took dance lessons, shaved my legs and other hair in other parts of my body, plucked my eyebrows," he said. "But everything was worth it. All of us were really ganado when we did 'Markova.' Even off camera, it was fun."

"Markova" was also the first time that Eric worked with Portes. For younger brother Jeffrey, the film gave him the breakthrough role of the teenage Markova.

But patriarch Dolphy, who popularized the komik-like "Facifica Falayfay," provided the heart and soul of Markova. Playing what had become of Markova in the '70s, it is his recollection that pulled together the film into one seamless, poignant narrative that raked the hearts and souls of a generation of moviegoers whose experience with war comes only from Hollywood Vietnam films.

"Markova" also graced other film festivals abroad like Toronto, Stockholm and Rome. Next year, it will be shown in film festivals in Palm Spring, Dauville, Mar del Plata, Hong Kong, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Cinema and the Asian Filmfest in San Francisco, said Eric.

The movie also top bills Sen. Loren Legarda and Joel Lamangan, who directed another entry to Brussels, "Deathrow," which won a special award for its stand against death penalty.

The Quizons join Albert Martinez and Vilma Santos in the Brussels Film Festival roster of winners from the Philippines. Martinez won best actor for Tikoy Aguiluz's "Rizal sa Dapitan," and Santos won the best actress plum for Chito Roño's "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa."

'Dirty Harry' is back

(From page A25)

As NACC chief, Lim will directly be under the Office of the President and will coordinate with other key government agencies in addressing the worsening problem of peace and order.

He will join the secretaries of defense, justice, and the DILG, national security adviser, Armed Forces chief of staff, PNP director general, National Bureau of Investigation director, chief state prosecutor, and three representatives from the private sector.

Lim gained his reputation as a no-nonsense crime buster and earned the nickname "Dirty Harry" during his long years as a Manila policeman. He rose from the ranks and retired as Chief Superintendent of the Western Police in the late '80s. He became mayor of Manila and made his mark by wiping out the red light district in the city. He went on to become director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

During the recent Senate inquiry on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged links with drug syndicates, Lim was back in his old and stolid and told Lacson's close friend and suspected drug lord, Kim Wong, he was lucky that he was no longer DILG secretary. Otherwise, Lim said he would put Wong behind bars.

Lim took a respite from government service after the fall of the Estrada administration in January. In May, that respite would end. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

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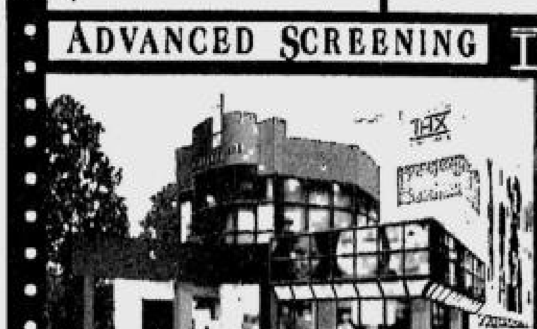

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IRON LADIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE SCORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ROCKSTAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DREAM GIRL
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	FAST & FURIOUS / A.I.
ODEON	MUSKETEER
ODEON-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ROBEN	TIKIM
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TIKIM
REMAR	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
REMAR-2	TIKIM
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
B	TIKIM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
CINEMA-2	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	TIKIM
CINEMA-8	IRON LADIES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-12	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-14	DREAM GIRL
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-5	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

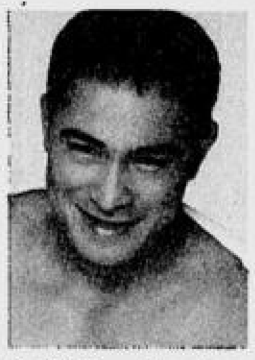
Jazz show for a cause

FROM City Lite 88.3 comes a show that cares, A Gift of Song... A Smooth Jazz Christmas Special." The show puts together some of the country's finest pop, jazz and R&B performers like Richard Merk, Bituin Escalante, Lyn Sherman and The Tux, among others.

Not only can City Lite listeners treat their loved ones to a night of first-rate delightful music, they also get the chance to help those in need. A donation of any three canned goods, any toy or any book to the station's chosen beneficiary entitles one to free invites to the show.

The jazzy night of song happens on Dec. 11, at 8 p.m., at Onstage Greenbelt in Makati City.

"A Gift of Song... A Smooth Jaz Christmas Special" is presented by Aegon Life Insurance Philippines, Hi-Lander Isuzu Crosswind, SM Supermarket, Mastercard, Advil, Estee Lauder and ñ Restaurant.



CESAR Montano headlines Star Cinema's war-drama, "Bagong Buwan"

And 3 . . .

(From page A31)

Muslim-Christian conflict in Mindanao.

The movie, written by Ricky Lee and Jun Lana, also stars Amy Austria, Caridad Sanchez, Carlo Aquino, Ronnie Lazaro, Jodi Santamaria, Nonie Buencamino and Jhong Hilario.

Even presidential son Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo is joining the filmfest, with "Di Kita Ma-Reach." The movie is the maiden offering of Ecorp Movie Ventures and is directed by Willy Milan.

LJ Moreno plays Mikey's leading lady.

Also starring are Raymond Bagasting, Ana Capri, Tonton Gutierez, Elizabeth Oropesa, Eula Valdez, Tommy Abuel, Bearwin Meily, Yam Ledesma and Erwin Mateo.

Tikoy Aguiluz works at the helm of Viva Films' entry, "Tatarin," based on Nick Joaquin's literary classic. Scripted by Ricky Lee, "Tatarin" also stars Edu Manzano, Rica Peralejo, Raymond Bagatsing, Carlos Morales and Patricia Javier.

Maverick Films joins the fray with a comedy-satire, "Hesusmaryosep (4 Fathers)," with young actors Bobby Andrews, Polo Ravales, Gerald Madrid and Bojo Molina in the lead. The film is directed by Edgardo "Boy" Vinarao from a script by Jun Lana.

The stars of this year's filmfest will be seen during the annual parade on Dec. 24 along Roxas Boulevard. The "Gabi ng Parangal" awards night will be held Dec. 27. *Leah Salterio*

SAF man shot dead in Pasay City

By Alcuin Papa

A DRUNKEN gun-toting member of the elite Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police was killed by Pasay City lawmen at dawn Friday.

Police identified the dead man as PO1 Danilo Robleado Jr., 35, of Gen. Malvar Street, Malate, Manila, assigned to the SAF headquarters in Bicutan, Taguig.

Police said Robleado went to the Bicol Drive Videoke bar on Edsa in Pasay City the other night and ordered beer and food.

At 3:30 a.m., he called waiter Jun Reque and asked for the bill.

When Reque handed the bill to the suspect, Robleado reacted violently when he saw he would be paying P812.

Instead of paying the bill, the suspect pulled out his gun and went after the waiter, who ran out the backdoor of the videoke. The suspect managed to grab the waiter and pointed his gun at Reque's nape.

SPO1 Roberto Despi and PO1 Froilan Trestiza, both members of the National Capital Region Police Office Regional Mobile Group in Bicutan, Taguig, were on patrol in the area and noticed the commotion.

The policemen urged Robleado to hand over his gun and stop threatening the waiter, but the suspect decided to run away. During the chase, Robleado engaged Despi and Trestiza in a running gunfight. The lawmen fired on Robleado and hit him on the right shoulder.

Robleado was immediately taken to the Pasay City General Hospital where he died. Doctors said the bullet that entered Robleado's shoulder went through his body, hitting his heart and causing his death.

The two policemen surrendered to the Pasay City police.

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Japanese loses P.3M to robbers in Manila

By Philip C. Tubeza

JAPANESE Sainji Teshima, 54, the local manager of a Japanese seamen's union lost P373,500 to robbers who broke into the union's office in Manila.

Teshima, manager of All Japan Seaman's Union/Manila Welfare Office told investigators that unidentified robbers broke into their office on the second floor of Barko Building, Arellano corner P. Ocampo streets in Manila after office hours, said PO3 Gordius Alundro, of the Western Police District Theft and Robbery Section.

Alundro said the break-in happened between 6:30 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. yesterday, when Teshima himself discovered that the vault containing the money had been forcibly opened.

2 killed in bus robbery

By Alcuin Papa

TWO Caloocan City Hall employees were killed during a robbery in a provincial bus in Makati City on Friday.

Makati City police investigator SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman identified the victims as Josefino Buenaventura, 49, married, of Guido Street, Caloocan City and Rogelio Payumo, 57, married and the driver of the Caloocan City vice mayor.

A third victim, Rocelle Galarosa, 19, single, a housemaid of Scout Reyes Street, Quezon City, was hit by a stray bullet in her buttocks.

According to investigators, the shooting occurred at 6:15 p.m. on Friday inside a Peñafrancia Tours and Travel bus, as it was traversing Kalayaan Avenue near C-5 Road, Barangay West Rembo, Makati City. The bus was bound for the Bicol region.

Bus driver Benito Panganiban told police that he was cruising on Kalayaan when he suddenly heard gun shots coming from the rear of the vehicle.

He slowed down the bus and spotted two or three men running away from the vehicle. Panganiban could not explain how the men managed to alight from the bus or whether they were actually passengers.

The driver then rushed to the rear of the bus and saw Buenaventura and Payumo dead on the floor with Galarosa lying injured beside them.

Police said Buenaventura was shot five times in different parts of his body while Payumo was hit once on the left side of the face. Galarosa was immediately taken to the Ospital ng Makati where she is now in stable condition.

Timtiman said one of the victims was probably asleep when the shooting occurred. Witnesses said they heard one of the victims shouting at the suspects before a scuffle ensued.

Police recovered a fully loaded .38 caliber pistol from one of the duffel bags inside the bus, which they said probably belonged to one of the suspects.

Man hit and run over by train

Philip C. Tubeza

A MAN was killed after he was run over by a Philippine National Railways train in Manila.

Fedelino S. Sahalila, 38, of 2239 Narra St. Tondo, Manila could hardly be recognized after a northbound PNR train ran over him about 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, said investigator PO3 Luisito Acebuche, of the Western police District-traffic section.

Police have yet to find out who was the engineer who operated the train that killed Sahalila along the PNR railway between Abad Santos and T. Mapua streets in Manila.

Sahalila was said to have tried boarding the moving train, lost his grip and fell on the path of the train.

But the train engineer apparently did not notice that a man was on the path of the train and did not stop it, police said.

Bystanders tried to save Sahalila and rushed him to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival.

The unidentified train engineer would face charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide in a "hit and run," police said.

Mass for Dacer and other victims

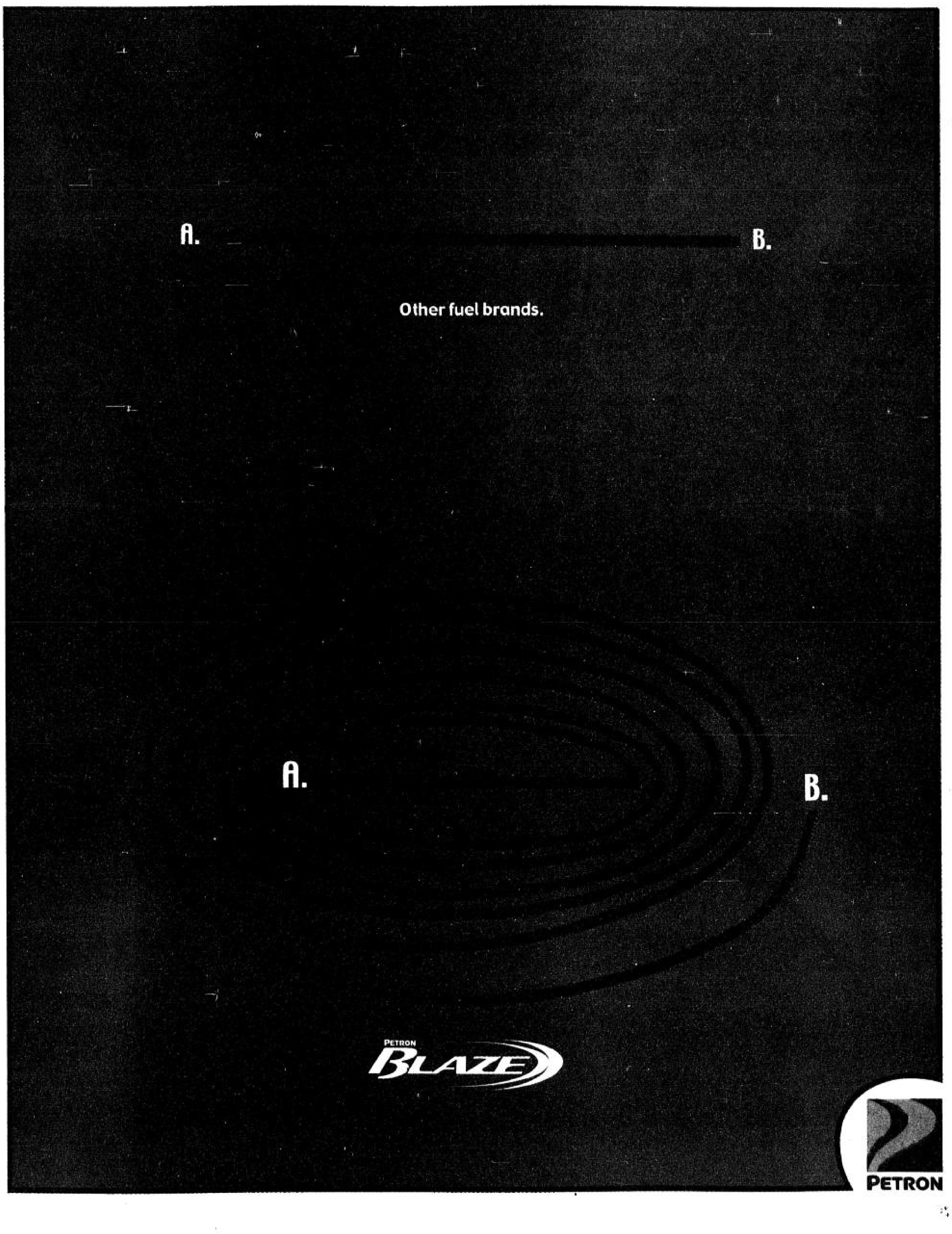
A MEMORIAL Mass for Bubby Dacer and other slain journalists was celebrated last Sunday during the 6th National Press Congress of the Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. (PAPI) in Baguio City.

The Mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. Mike M. Gimarino, publisher of the Cebu Southern Balita.

Dacer was a public relations consultant, governor of the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) and publisher of the Customs Week and chair of the Asia-Pacific News (Aspac), a news agency. He was a four-term president of the old Federation of Provincial Press Clubs.

A year ago, Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito disappeared and were allegedly killed by men of the dreaded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

PAPI president Juan P. Dayang said he and former President Fidel V. Ramos were supposed to meet Dacer for lunch on Nov. 24, 2000 at Dacer's office at the Manila Hotel but he never showed up.



How do you burn more rubber without burning more fuel? Simply pump up with Blaze. Because at this year's Honda Civic Eco Challenge, 1 liter of Blaze lasted 24.97 kms under highway driving conditions. That's 13 kms more than 1 liter of gas usually lasts. And it was done down South with a Philippine Motor Association representative behind the wheel. But what was even more impressive was when Pocholo Ramirez, participating in the tactical driving category, reached an astounding 49.68 kms to 1 liter of our gas. Talk about fuel efficiency that runs circles around the other brands.

Jay Manalo admits . . .

(From page A32)

other, so how could I have been seen with him?"

He insists he doesn't know the businessman.

"I've heard that rumor before," he says. "I just don't know why it hasn't died. I refuse to get affected by the talk. It won't do my career any good."

This year has been a good one for Jay. After a lull in his acting career, he resurfaced this year, starting with **Yam Laranas**' directorial debut, "Balahibong Pusa," where he was paired with his former sweetheart, **Joyce Jimenez**.

He then starred with **Maricel Soriano** in **Joel Lamangan**'s critically acclaimed dramatic film, "Abandonada."

Thanks to a new manager, **Manny Valera**, Jay has been getting the right projects.

He also stars opposite **Assunta de Rossi** in Regal's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Hubog," directed by **Joel Lamangan**. He plays a bodyguard who adopts sisters Assunta and **Alessandra**, but he has an ulterior motive—to molest them sexually.

Did you know Jay has eight tattoos on his body?

For him, tattooing is a form of art and expression. His right arm has a red rabbit while his left has the Chinese characters for "freedom."

On his right wrist, he wears a celtic tribal design as a "bracelet." On his navel is the male symbol of a circle with an arrow pointing downwards.

When he was a skinhead, Jay had a sun tattoo on his head.

On his lower left leg are a snake, a fishbone and the words "Life is a gamble."

He keeps fit by getting into all kinds of sports. Aside from golf, he is also into rowing, jet-skiing, basketball and swimming.

ILLUSTRATED Man Jay Manalo believes tattooing is a form of art and expression.

In defense of the autistic

ALDO P. Filomeno, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography (45 Mahogany St., Pleasant Hill San Jose del Monte, Bulacan), reacts to our column item about **Alessandra de Rossi**, "Not just little sister" ("Show biz Tidbits" (12/03/01):

"In your story, you mentioned that in her new film, 'Hubog,' Alessandra will win the hearts of moviegoers anew. Although 'Hubog' topbills Assunta, it will have Alessandra playing the challenging role of an autistic teenager who allows men to molest her in exchange for a hamburger . . .

"You also wrote (director) **Joel Lamangan** made sure Alessandra's character will shine in 'Hubog,' which has sexy scenes featuring Assunta.

"It pains me so much that a film with a wild, inhumane, sadistic plot attempts to be an official entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

"Why does a filmmaker venture on a plot wherein a mentally defective person has been extremely violated by sex maniacs for the price of a hamburger?

"We don't need a film like 'Hubog' because this is a serious affront and dampens the spirit of the autistic community. The autistic people are not to be fed to the wolves. They badly need our care, concern, love and prayers.

"Those who make a mockery of the weakness of an autistic person is a lunatic. Their breed is dangerous to a civilized society like ours.

"To the producers of 'Hubog' and Lamangan, please have a little *delicadeza* . . . Humanity will never rejoice in trampling the plight of the disadvantaged."

'Mesmerize'

ZARAGOZA. Inspired by "Moulin Rouge"

JESSA Zaragoza and her hubby **Dingdong Avanzado** get to work together in a concert. They are not performing together, though. Dingdong conceptualized Jessa's concert, "Mesmerize," Dec. 14 at the Music Museum. Dingdong will also direct.

Jessa has had multi-platinum hits and OPM ballads. Her phenomenal rise to stardom is largely due to her singing, with her unique voice.

"Mesmerize" will have Jessa doing jazz, Latin, classical and even Top 40 hits. **Toti Fuentes** does the musical arrangements.

"The dance routines are quite difficult," says Jessa of her concert. "But the hard work is worth it."

"Mesmerize" is mounted by Robby Tarroza Productions.

Dingdong admits the show was basically drawn from the hit Hollywood flick, "Moulin Rouge," which featured musical numbers with **Nicole Kidman** and **Ewan McGregor**.

"The movie had a very strong impact on me," Dingdong says. "Old ideas were presented in a new light in 'Moulin Rouge' and that is what I will try to achieve in Jessa's concert."

"This is my first solo concert for the year and my husband thought about it," she says. "This is very special."

Joining Jessa onstage are the Noisy Neighbors and the Whiplash Dancers.

Ford Libis and Cravings are sponsoring a photo exhibit featuring Jessa as seen though the lens of **Raymond Lontok.** The exhibit will be moved to the Music Museum lobby on the day of the show.

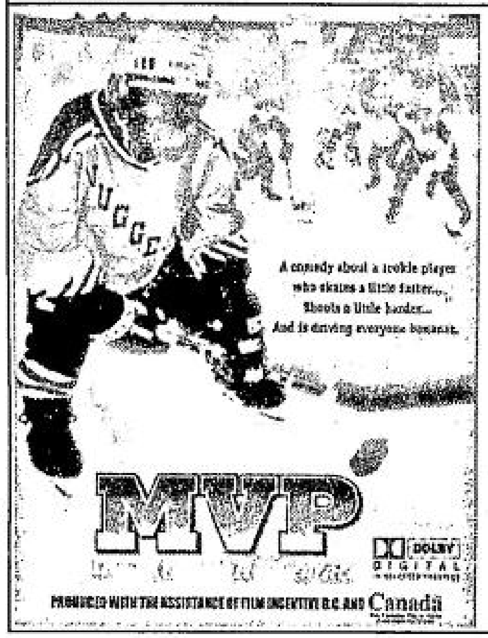
> 'This is my first solo concert for the year and my husband thought about it,' says Jessa

CINEMANILA 2001
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

December 7 -16, 2001 Greenbelt & Glorietta Cinemas, Makati City

DECEMBER 10 (MONDAY) SCREENING SCHEDULE

Time	Greenbelt 1	Greenbelt 3	Glorietta 4
11:40AM	The Map of Sex & Love (Hong Kong) **R-18**	The Foul King (Korea) **R-18**	Firefly Dreams (Japan) **PG-13**
2:10PM	Erotic Tales (Germany) **R-18**	Detector (Norway) **R-18**	Too Much Sleep (USA) **PG-13**
4:40PM	Attack the Gas Station (Korea) **PG-13**	Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korea) **PG-13**	Disoriented (USA) **PG-13**
7:10PM	Divided We Fall (Czech Republic)	Return to Pontianak (Singapore) **PG-13**	The Price of Milk (New Zealand) **G**
9:40PM	Divine (Mexico) **R-18**	Erotic Tales (Germany) **R-18**	The Isle (Korea) **R-18**



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ROCKSTAR - P 13 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
THE MUSKETEER - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 6:25, 8:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

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Three for the heist

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"THE SCORE" is a should-see movie because it combines the formidable thespic abilities of some of the best talents separately belonging to three generations of film actors. Imagine seeing **Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro** and **Edwad Norton** in one film? That's a special treat, no question.

Unfortunately, as the movie unreels, we slowly realize that the ace trio's ensemble work isn't as memorable as it promised to be. For one thing, Brando doesn't have as much screen time as his two younger co-stars.

He's there mainly to get the movie's main heist organized and started. After it's set in motion, he pretty much leaves the actual execution of the plan to De Niro and Norton.

The heist has to do with a rare, bejewelled scepter that the gang has to steal from an extremely tightly-guarded vault. Norton's character gets the top-secret information that De Niro needs to plan the heist in detail by pretending to be a retarded, spastic janitor. That way, nobody in the building will suspect him of complicity in the crime, once it's discovered.

The fact that he has to play such a twisted character enables Norton to come on strongly in this production. In fact, if he weren't such an experienced and brilliant actor, De Niro would have been left eating Norton's thespic dust.

But De Niro certainly wouldn't allow that to happen. So, he uses all the skill and creativity he has to hold our attention, even as Norton is going colorfully spastic all over the place.

As for Brando, he doesn't even try to compete. He looks quite happy being the low man on this film's totem pole. Well, he's Marlon Brando, after all, and has nothing more to prove.

An additional twist to this story is Norton's decision to not play by the rules and get possession of the scepter for his own purposes, after De Niro has risked his life to steal it. We can bet, however, that De Niro won't let him get away with his dastardly, treacherous plan.

It's interesting to see De Niro back to playing an antihero role, after many good, solid-citizen roles. The fact that he's already middle-aged makes his toughness and amorality all the more chilling.

We must credit him for daring to experiment even at a point in his career when his contemporaries would be content just to keep playing their safe, easy, signature roles.

Aside from De Niro and Norton's edgework, the movie is enlivened by the exciting staging, camera coverage and editing of the heist scenes and the chase afterwards.

But the film fails to score really major points because it isn't all that different from other high-tech robbery scenarios, despite its strong stellar appeal.

'Come to the Manger'

ATENEO de Manila's Dulaang Sibol is now staging "Come to the Manger," an advent preparation for Christmas featuring a delightful musical on Lionel Valdellon, Heaven's most mischievous angel. By listening to the Christmas carols, readings and reflections, members of the audience will truly capture the true meaning of the Yuletide season.

Another performance is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the Tanghalang Onofre Pagsanghan, at the Ateneo's Loyola Heights campus. Tickets are available at the gate.

"BAHAY ni Lola" stars Gina Alajar (left), Aiza Seguerra (front) and Manilyn Reynes.

YOUNG stars Camille Pratts and Danilo Barrios in Regal's "Yamashita."

And 3 from Regal makes 7 in Metro Manila filmfest

UNLIKE in the previous years when there were only six official entries, this year's Metro Manila Film Festival will show seven films during the 10-day filmfest from Dec. 25 to Jan. 3.

However, except for Cesar Montano, Dina Bonnevie and Gloria Romero, there are no big stars this year.

Regal Entertainment leads the pack with three films in the festival.

Chito Roño directs "Yamashita," which stars Armando Goyena, Albert Martinez, Vic Diaz, Rustom Padilla, Danilo Barrios, Camille Pratts, Janus del Prado, Bearwin Meily and Carlo Muñoz.

Gloria Romero, best actress winner in last year's MMFF for Laurice Guillen's "Tanging Yaman," leads the fantasy-horror "Bahay ni Lola," directed by Uro de la Cruz. Others in the cast are Gina Alajar, Manilyn Reynes and Aiza Seguerra, with Allan K, Miko Sotto and Maxene Magalona.

The third Regal entry is Joel Lamangan's "Hubog," which topbills sexy actress Assunta de Rossi, with Jay Manalo, Wendell Ramos and Alessandra de Rossi.

Star Cinema fields Marilou Diaz-Abaya's war-drama, "Bagong Buwan," which tackles the sensitive subject of the

AND/ A28

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11 Dec/Tuesday
3:30 PM
KUSUM
by Jouko Aaltonen
from Finland

6:00 PM
BEFORE THE RAIN
by Milko Milchowski
from Macedonia

8:30 PM
HATRED
by Mathieu Kassovitz
from France

12 Dec/Wednesday
3:30 PM
SHOOT TO KILL
from Venezuela

6:00 PM
CRAZY
by Hedy Honigmann
from the Netherlands

8:30 PM
CHILDREN
OF HEAVEN
from Iran

13 Dec/Thursday
3:30 PM
DREAMS OF HIND
AND CAMILLIA
from Egypt

6:00 PM
TOMBSTONE
OF THE FIREFLIES
by Isao Takahata
from Japan

8:30 PM
INCURABLE
ROMANTICS
by Gianfranco Di Iori
from Australia
d/w
AMAZING GRACE
by Amos Gutman
from Israel

14 Dec/Friday
1:00 PM
ZONA J.
from Portugal

3:30 PM
DIAMONDS AND
RUST
by Adie Barash
& Ruthie Shatz
from Israel

6:00 PM
JOURNEY OF HOPE
by Xavier Koller
from Switzerland

8:30 PM
ORAPRONOBIS
by Lino Brocka
from the Philippines

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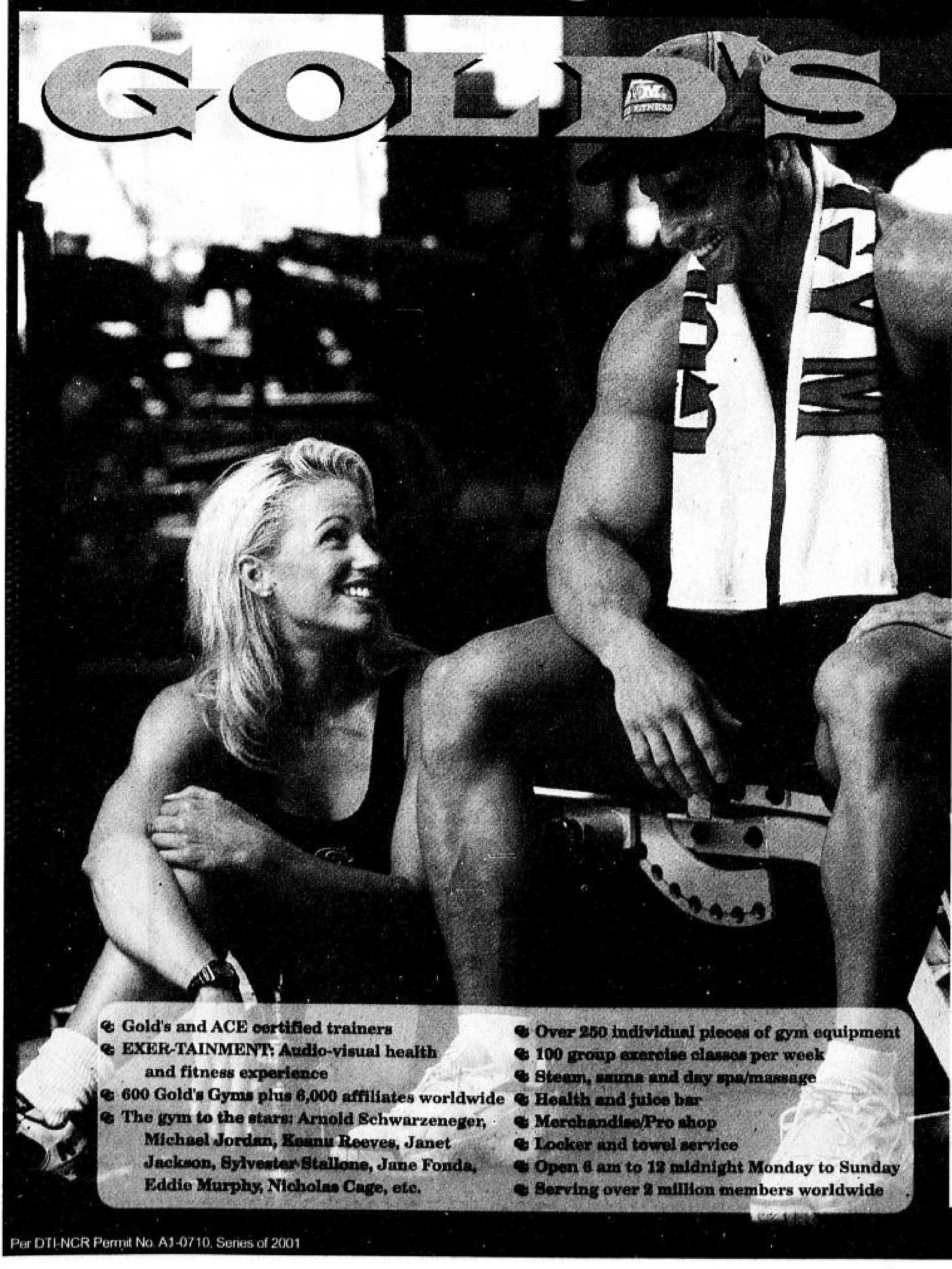

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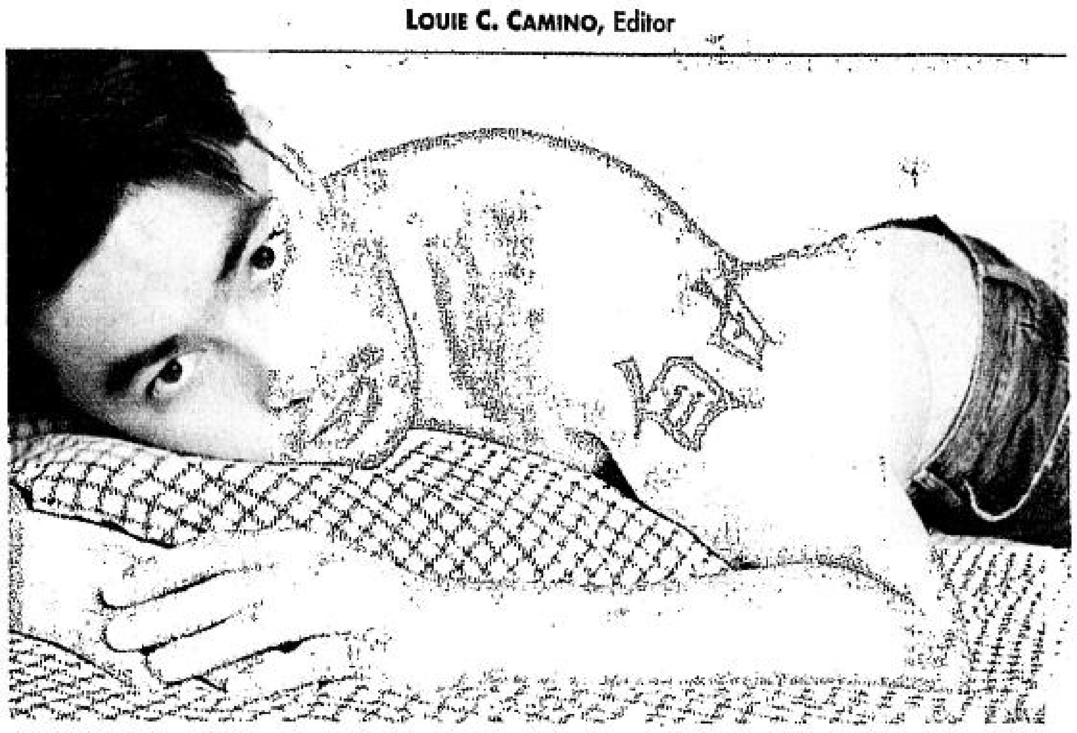
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



OBJECT of a businessman's desire, according to gossip, Jay denies he even knows the big man.

Jay Manalo admits he plays golf, but not with 'businessman lover'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

CONTROVERSY just won't leave hunk **Jay Manalo** alone.

The latest buzz about him is his "affair" with a very big businessman who, gossips say, has been seen playing golf with the actor in several places like Intramuros.

While Jay admits he plays golf almost everyday, he swears he hasn't met the very well-connected businessman.

"You can ask the caddies in places where I play," Jay says. "I'm always with my *barkada* or my brother. I never played in a golf course where that businessman also played. We never even bumped into each

JAY/ A30

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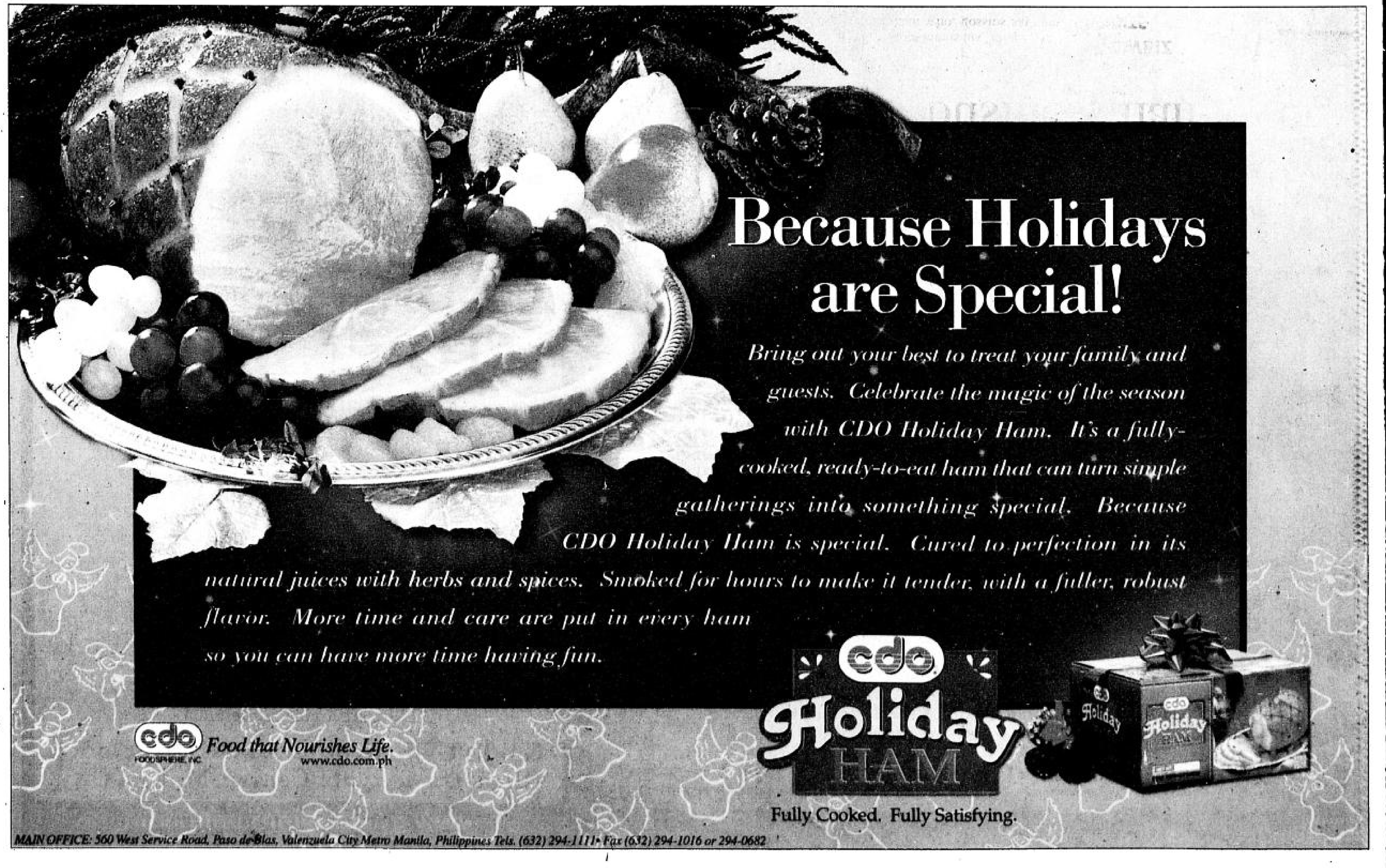
KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

Kris Aquino's column will be back on Friday.



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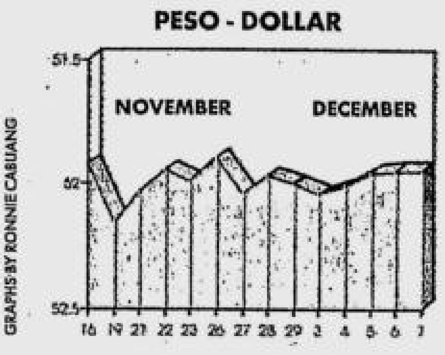

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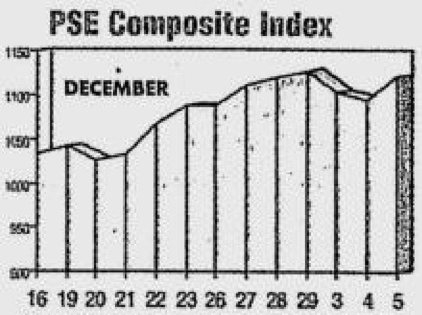
STOCK MARKET

Consolidation seen



(See stock market report on Page B6)

AFTER four straight weeks of positive momentum, the local stock market is seen to enter the consolidation phase, although the upward bias still remains especially for this week when investors look forward to another interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

With some mixed trading emerging in the market, traders said the market would move sideways this week, but positively noted that sharp downside risks were now limited.

Although confidence has been trickling back to the market, the four-week rebound was still seen as largely seasonal rather than fundamental in nature.

(See story on Page B6)

Cojuangco to seek board nod on new SMC investor

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of San Miguel Corp. will meet this Friday (Dec. 14) to decide on a proposal by chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. to take in a foreign brewer as a strategic partner by selling the company's treasury shares and unissued stocks.

An SMC official said the board meeting, originally scheduled last Nov. 29, would be the first in two months for the company and the proposed buy-in of a foreign brewer was expected to be on top of its agenda.

SMC has confirmed that it was in talks with several foreign brewers for a possible buy-in of 15 percent to 20 percent of the company but it did not elaborate. SMC is reportedly negotiating with Japan's Kirin Beer and Belgium's Interbrew but the former has been tagged by Inquirer sources as the most likely partner.

But while Cojuangco is sure of getting the board's green light (he controls eight of the 15 board seats), both the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Office of the Solicitor General have vowed to block any move by Cojuangco that would dissipate the disputed 51-percent equity holdings in the food and beverage giant.

The government's sequestered shares represent the 29-percent interest bought by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund using coconut levy funds in SMC and the 22-percent being claimed by Cojuangco but which probers believed was part of the Marcos loot. Aside from the sequestered shares, the state-run Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System have a combined 14 percent in SMC.

While the PCGG is not opposed to the entry of a foreign partner in SMC, it is duty-bound to prevent the dissipation of sequestered assets, which the Cojuangco scheme was certain to bring about. The PCGG said it would not allow the CIIF's stake to be diluted from 29 percent to 23 percent until after the Supreme Court has ruled whether these funds are really owned by the coconut farmers.

Although the PCGG has five seats in SMC's board, these are currently occupied by Estrada nominees who managed to cling on to their posts mainly on a technicality—the PCGG did not submit its new nominees before the deadline, Jan. 20 this year, the day Estrada was ferried out of Malacañang. The PCGG has a pending case to unseat the Estrada nominees and it is confident it would be able to put its rightful nominees in next year's annual meeting.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said the sale of SMC shares before the high tribunal has rendered its ruling would be prejudicial to the interests of the farmers specially if they are eventually deemed as the funds' beneficial owners. While the government might not be able to thwart the sale at the board level, Marcelo said the government would seek a temporary restraining order against the sale of SMC shares to a foreign brewer.

The sale of 15 percent to 20 percent of San Miguel to a foreign beer brewer at $1.50 per share is just the first of a two-stage strategy by Cojuangco for the beer-based giant.

In the first phase, the sale of treasury shares and unissued stocks will dilute the government block's (CIIF, SSS, GSIS and PCGG) equity of 44 percent to 36 percent. While Cojuangco's stake will go down from 22 percent to 18 percent, the scheme gives him an invaluable

COJUANGCO/ B6

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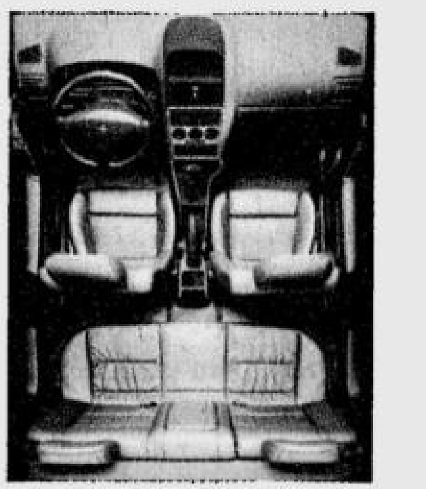

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Everyone's agenda

MINDANAO ONE

Jo-Ann de Belen

THE PHILIPPINES is already feeling the impact of the global economic slowdown. Although its effect on our national economy cannot yet be precisely gauged, definitely, difficult times lie ahead.

On Dec. 10, the government will hold a National Socio-Economic Summit to forge an agenda for meeting these challenges, and to ensure that the poor and the vulnerable sectors are buffered from the worst effects of the slowdown.

To assist the government in formulating a national agenda, Mindanao's networks of development players gathered at a consultation-workshop last week to consolidate a list of pressing issues and corresponding interventions. Most of these had previously been discussed at various Mindanao-wide forums.

The list had to meet the following criteria: the issue had to be urgent; the recommended intervention had to be "doable" in the short term, given meager resources; it had to be potentially high-impact, particularly on the marginalized and vulnerable sectors; it had to be Mindanao-wide, and it should benefit both the Mindanao and the Philippine economy.

The final point must be stressed. Although the output of the workshop is contained in a document titled "The Mindanao Agenda," it underscores the strategic importance of Mindanao's well being to the Philippine economy. It is clear that addressing Mindanao's most pressing concerns is pivotal to surmounting the country's economic problems. Here are a number of reasons why:

- Addressing poverty in Mindanao will contribute substantially to poverty reduction nationwide.
- Among the other island groups, poverty incidence is highest in Mindanao. Forty-five percent of Mindanao's families live below the poverty threshold, compared to 30 percent in Luzon and 38 percent in the Visayas.

Poverty in Mindanao is not only more widespread, it is also more severe. The poverty gap ratios and severity indices for all six regions in Mindanao are higher than the corresponding figures for the whole country.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) shows deplorable social indicators. Eighteen out of the 25 most deprived provinces are in Mindanao, and five of them are in ARMM. The participation rate for public and private schools at the secondary level has declined to alarming levels, with the highest drop observed in predominantly Muslim-populated areas. The downtrend could be linked to the armed conflict.

High-impact solutions to these problems are sorely needed. Reducing poverty in Mindanao would effectively reduce poverty nationwide.

- Resolving the Mindanao conflict and restoring order in the region is vital for a healthy national economy.

The persistent peace and order problem in Mindanao has stalled investments in the Philippines, both local and foreign, public and private. A fundamental task for the country, therefore, is to attain peace in the region.

In their study titled "Peace and Reconstruction Imperatives for Mindanao's Enhanced Development"

MINDANAO/ B8

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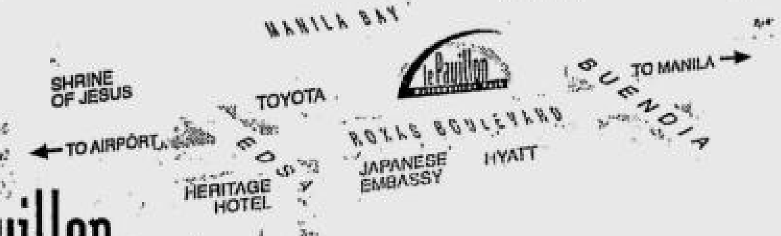

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Angara-pals

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

SEN. Edgardo Angara has nobody to blame except himself and his opposition colleagues for having inflicted to the nation this vaudeville that in the process got his reputation smeared by a "perjurious" witness.

Even before the blue ribbon could hear the tales of Pacifico Marcelo, the Filipinos saw on live TV, thanks to Angara, how supposedly learned men snarl like fish vendors even on basic procedural rules.

And thanks to Robert Jaworski, we now know that the former basketball superstar is also weak in math, equating 125 minutes to "one hour twenty-five minutes." This, to use a previous quote of the senator, is simply "*prepesterous*!"

In case you missed Friday's whole-day hearing, here are some of the more hilarious revelations:

- Despite the promptings of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Marcelo could not even remember the date of his meeting with the President in Malacañang. The self-described "telecom consultant" who claims he can bring "billions" of dollars in foreign investment does not even maintain a diary nor a secretary to jot down his first-ever meeting with the President.
- Marcelo's important-sounding "International Business Consultancy Group" allows "*tambays*" (loafers) in their office.

One of the "tambays" claims to have been appointed the group's vice president, but Marcelo denies having hired him, yet, in the same vein, admits giving him "about P20,000" cash for making "*tambay*" in his office.

- Despite being an American citizen, Marcelo was appointed by then President Estrada as government director in the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.
- Marcelo valued his shell company, with about half a million pesos paid-up capital, for $5 million (P260 million) without the congressional franchise, because it has Internet "copyright" over the name.

Do you know how much is it to maintain an Internet registration annually? $75.

- Angara tried to stop fellow senator Noli de Castro from asking questions, patronizing the neophyte legislator with "Let's acquire experience first, *kabayan*" remark.
- Jaworski, one of those who voted not to open the Jose Velarde envelope in the impeachment hearings, implored "the truth" in his rush to cut the hearing's preliminaries and allow Marcelo to speak right away about the Malacañang meeting.

Jaworski even lectured his colleagues, "I am embarrassed to be here in the Senate!"

Antsy at ANC

THE ABS-CBN News Channel has just elevated ex-San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada to the level of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan when it interrupted Friday's coverage of the Senate blue ribbon hearing about half a dozen times to deliver medical bulletins about the condition of the ex-actor.

The ANC even went live thrice to show their reporter in front of the V. Luna Medical Center waiting for the Jinggoy convoy.

And just so viewers would not miss it, ANC even dispatched a helicopter to broadcast that the Jinggoy convoy was already traversing the Edsa-Shaw Boulevard underpass.

Heard through the grapevine

PACIFICO Marcelo proceeded to his "safe house" in Urdaneta Village after Friday's circus at the Senate. The safe house, it turns out, is the same house of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

Urdaneta Village is conveniently near the Mandarin Hotel, where Marcelo had been often seen waiting for a sultry singer in the Captain's Bar.

* * *

NOTICE to readers: In case we fail to come out on Wednesday, it is because we have been held up in Baguio to answer four libel cases filed by the Baguio Country Club.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

FMC eyes lower compensation from Mazda

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FRANCISCO Motors Corp. is willing to cut by nearly half its demand for compensation from Mazda Corp. of Japan and sister firm Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. in order to settle its two-year dispute over the assembly and sale of Ford Ranger and Econovan models in the country.

FMC senior assistant vice president Roland Francisco said his firm was willing to accept at least $35 million (down from its original demand of $66 million) from Mazda/Ford as compensation for building the Mazda brand in the country for more than 25 years.

FMC was Mazda's local assembler and distributor in the country since the 1970s until the Japanese vehicle maker abruptly stopped sending assembly packs to FMC in 1999. It was during this time that Ford introduced the Ranger, which shared the same platform as the Mazda B-Series being distributed by FMC. Ford Motor Co. of the United States owns 30 percent of Mazda.

FMC decided to break its ties with Mazda for failing to fulfill its exclusive contract to sell Mazda pick-ups up to 2002. FMC had agreed to allow Ford to distribute the Ranger before the contract's expiry only after a venture between FMC, Mazda and Columbian Autocars Corp. (assembler of Mazda sedans) was formed to take over marketing of these brands in the country. FMC came up with its end of the bargain by posing no objection to the Ranger's entry but Ford/Mazda neglected to put up the venture firm.

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DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

Nextel ownership row sizzles

By Abigail L. Ho

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. (NCPI) may again be in hot water as talks about its alleged violation of the constitutional cap on foreign ownership catch fire.

Reports came out more than a week ago that Nextel's foreign parent, Nextel International Inc. (NII), had written off its investment in the trunk radio service provider because of a possible violation of Philippine laws.

NCPI vice president for legal affairs Rudolph Jularbal, however, denied this and stressed that NCPI still had support from its parent firm.

"NCPI continues to receive technical and operational support from Nextel International. There is also continued technology transfer and support from Motorola," he said in a statement Friday.

NII's US Securities and Exchange Commission Form 10-Q filed Nov. 14, however, stated otherwise.

"As a result of our continuing efforts to tailor our

NEXTEL/ B7

Paris-based body urges RP to amend laundering law

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE REGIONAL unit of the Financial Action Task Force has communicated to the Philippine government the need to amend the Anti-Money Laundering Act for the country to be removed from the watchlist of countries tagged as uncooperative in the global drive against dirty money.

In particular, the international watchdog wanted Philippine legislators to lift the P4-million threshold on the amount of suspicious transactions that a bank or a financial institution would be required to report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

While the FATF has not formally communicated its intention, the issue has been raised in discussions with Philippine authorities. The underlying threat, according to an informed source, was for the Philippines to remove the threshold or the country would remain in the watchlist.

The threshold provided in Section 2 of Republic Act 9160 says, in effect, that banks and other financial institutions would only report suspicious transactions when it reaches P4 million.

The FATF had agreed to suspend imposing economic sanctions on the Philippines for the meantime. But if legislators would not amend the law, the sanctions may be revived, another source said.

The Philippine Congress rushed and passed an anti-money laundering law the day before the Sept. 30 deadline imposed by the Paris-based watchdog. The law was submitted to the regional unit of the FATF, which is currently evaluating whether or not it met the standards of the Task Force.

The FATF is scheduled to meet in February but the removal of the Philippines from the watchlist might not be taken up because of concerns on the P4-million threshold, the source added.

The Paris-based FATF, a global group monitoring money-laundering activities around the world, was created by rich member economies of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Task Force believed that about $1.5 trillion in dirty funds were being laundered yearly in countries that have lax policies against money laundering. The Philippines is one of the 17 countries on the watchlist.

So far, the Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Council has already frozen accounts and assets of a boiler room operation in the country.

The Paris-based Task Force had laid out five requirements that an anti-money laundering law must satisfy.

These include the criminalization of money laundering, an efficient reporting requirement that will compel banks to report suspicious transactions, an implementing body that will ensure the spirit of the law is being carried out, an improved access to suspicious deposits, and a provision for international cooperation.

After Sept. 11, the FATF had also required countries to meet new standards against anti-terrorism and financial support for these groups.

The central bank said the new requirements might be added as amendments to the existing law against money laundering or it might require Congress to pass a new law against terrorism.

Crippling economic sanctions were imposed by member countries of the FATF to countries like the Philippines when it had not complied with the requirements.

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What? Another coco levy fund? (Part II)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

DANDING Cojuangco managed one-half of the P9.7 billion levied on farmers. It is ironic that his projects are the only visible vestiges of the infamous coco levy.

In 1974, Danding's Agricultural Investors Inc. was granted a 20-year contract to develop 1,500 hectares of Bugsuk Island, north of Palawan, into a nursery. The grandiose plan was to replace all 400 million coconut trees in the country. But farmers found the nuts vastly inferior. The contract was canceled in 1982 when the levy was lifted. Because of this pre-termination, AII won liquidated damages of P958 million. Add P174 million paid for seednuts produced, and the project cost the farmers P1.132 billion. Deduct P426 million advanced from farmers' money to cover operating expenses. AII came away with a clean profit of P704 million. Not bad for a company with a paid-up capital of P608,000.

In 1975, P28.8 million of farmers' money was used to buy 72.2 percent of what is now United Coconut Planters Bank. Later, when Central Bank raised the minimum paid up capital of banks, an additional P80.864 million of coconut farmers' money was poured into the bank. Guess who holds majority control of Cocobank now.

In 1977, farmers' money was used to buy a life insurance company, renamed United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. Today, Cocolife is the sixth largest company in annual premium volume. But the farmers no longer own it.

In 1979, P495 million of farmers' money was invested in a private corporation called United Coconut Oil Mills Inc., which had no mill. In 1977, some private parties set up Unicom at an initial paid-up of P5 million. By slick corporate thievery, the private parties ended up owning P100 million in stock and the farmers P400 million.

Unicom became the biggest copra trader. At its peak, it was buying 85 percent of the country's copra production for export. Traditionally, domestic price was 90 percent of export price. Under Unicom, domestic price dropped to 75 percent of export price. It is estimated that this cost the farmers about P2 billion. How the Unicom was liquidated when it ceased operating is not known.

Twenty-one oil mills were bought with farmers' money. Sixteen were mothballed afterward, P184 million down the drain. The remaining five mills are operating. Who owns them? Your guess as good as mine.

We now come to the San Miguel shares. The story opened when the Ayalas and the Sorianos, both founding families, had a falling out. The Ayalas sold their 20-percent holdings to Danding. It seems clear he used his own resources for the purchase.

When Andy Soriano died two years later, his family decided to sell its 27-percent holdings. The stocks were in the name of 14 holding companies. Danding put up his own 14 holding companies in parallel. The oil mills borrowed P1.6 billion from Cocobank, then turned the money over, apparently as clean loans, to Danding's holding companies, which then bought the Soriano holding companies. Presumably, the loans of the oil mills were at market terms. The terms of the clean loan of Danding's holding companies from the oil mills are wrapped in mystery. By now, the oil mills must have already paid back the Cocobank loan. Whether Danding's holding companies have paid back the oil companies is a well-kept secret.

Are the levy funds private or public? The money came from the farmers; the funds are private. But few farmers can now prove their ownership. My brothers, sisters and I have money in the fund corresponding to the levy on the copra production of our family farm in Naga City. But we cannot prove our ownership, just like millions of other coconut farmers. As a result, the funds should now be declared public, to be disbursed by Congress which should remember why the funds were collected in the first place.

By the way, Cocofed does not have a single centavo in the fund. Cocofed was never a copra producer. Under the levy system, Cocofed was a mail drop, a post office.

As to the various coconut farmers' groups now trying to get a piece of the pie, we should be careful they are not communist front organization.

The presidential decrees and letters of instructions repeatedly proclaimed that they were for the benefit of the farmers. But the farmers were never beneficiaries. They were the victims. Congress should never allow this to happen again.

iBank offers new high-yield products

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) recently launched two high-yielding, long-term instruments in a bid to provide its customers with opportunities to maximize the earning potentials of their placements.

iBank marketing center head Fred Guiao said the "iTime Plus" and "iTime Prime" were variations of the time deposit instrument that combines the advantages of both long-term and short-term placements.

Both products offer rates higher than short-term time deposits but are more flexible than most high-yielding, long-term placements, Guiao said. The interest on iTime Prime is based on the 91-day T-bill or iBank top 30-day board rate, whichever is higher; while the iTime Plus could earn up to more than 13 percent net per annum. Interest earnings for these products are exempted from the 20-percent withholding tax if placement is kept up to its five-year maturity.

Both products come with free accident insurance coverage of up to P5 million.

Guiao said the iTime Prime for a minimum deposit of one hundred thousand provided customers with options to reprise the interest every 30, 60 or 90 days. Clients do not have to wait for maturity to get the interest, he pointed out. The iTime Plus can make the minimum deposit of P60,000 become P100,000 in five years.

Guiao said the products have been designed in response to the growing market need for flexible, multifeatured, high-yield instruments. An expanding portion of the market is looking for such beneficial placements, particularly during these times.

The products are primarily aimed at retirees, pensioners, professionals and executives with sizeable liquid reserves and who are looking for higher return on their investments.

Oil find seen to generate foreign investor interest

(WHEN it was announced that a potentially rich reservoir of oil has been struck beneath the Malampaya natural gas fields early last week, fresh hopes were sparked about the country's prospective decreasing dependence on imported oil. Former global investment banker and Wharton-educated Energy Secretary Vincent Perez sees other benefits beyond energy self-sufficiency. Perez shares his views with the INQUIRER)

Q & A

Question: Malampaya has the potential to produce 25,000 to 50,000 barrels of oil per day at some point in time, how would that impact on us?

Answer (Perez): The country's daily requirement is approximately 340,000 barrels per day; 50,000 barrels per day will represent a significant percentage of that daily requirement.

Q: Will that mean lower oil prices?

A: 'Not in the short-term. Oil is a commodity whose price will always be based on international pricing mechanisms. However, this would mean less importation and more dollar savings for us in the years to come.

Q: So, what's the big deal?

A: The oil find is an important piece of good news as far as our quest for energy self-sufficiency is concerned. Local sources of fuel, such as oil and natural gas from Malampaya, can potentially supply up to 55 percent of the country's energy requirements in the short- to medium-term.

Q: Why is this important?

A: For one, the country will never be held hostage again by any international oil crisis, such as those faced by the country whenever there is a major problem in the Middle East. The grim prospect of oil rationing in the event of such crises becomes a little bit remote.

Q: Will the oil find make us "a Malaysia"?

A: We do not know that yet. Not at this point. But who knows? The oil strike cannot but spark a renewed optimism in the potential of the country to be a net exporter of energy resources in the medium- to long-term. So, while we do not wish to create unreasonable expectations at this point, we also do not wish to discount that bright possibility.

Q: Will the oil strike boost our international stature?

A: Not politically. We do not yet have the quantity that would give us an Opec member-type of leverage. But one thing I can really say is this: The oil find has stirred a new interest among global investors in the Philippines. We can anticipate the entry of more investors who will fund more extensive oil exploration projects in the country. The oil strike is, indeed, a major piece of positive international business news, you might say.

Q: Is it also a positive local business news?

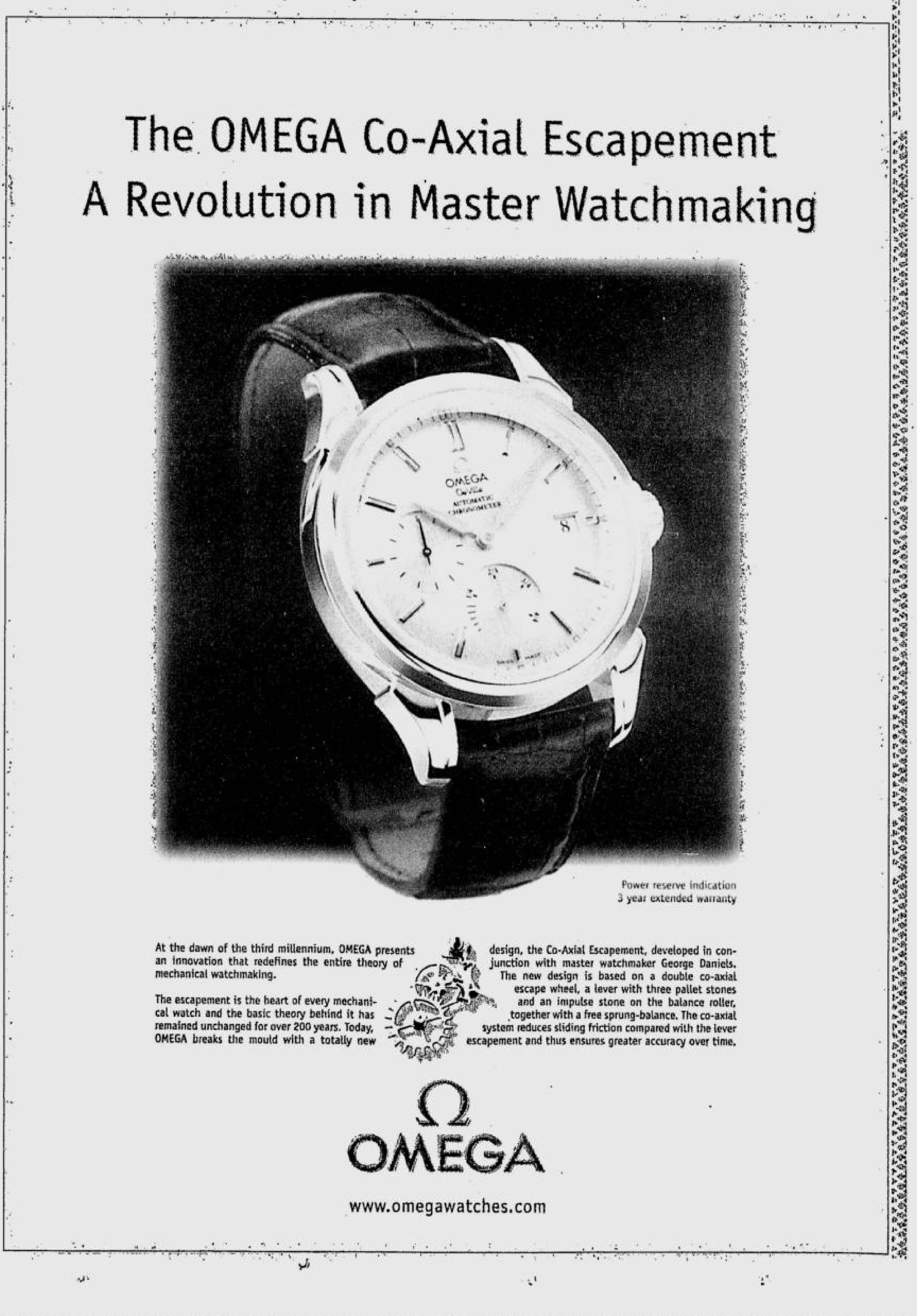
A: At the end of the day, this major development should boost the other major items in President Macapagal-Arroyo's governance agenda. Job creation, for one. When major explorations begin, many Filipinos—including those working in other countries—will find new employment opportunities here. These projects require manpower. We have the kind of people who make for efficient oil exploration. That is why our skilled workers have been in demand in Middle Eastern oil-producing countries.

In addition, as the country answers for more and more of its own energy requirement, we begin to save more and more of our precious foreign exchange reserves.

PEREZ

Q: So this is not all hype that reminds one of the gold-rush fever?

A: No. This is not hype of any kind. Whether or not there is oil beyond the potential of 50,000 barrels a day, there are many more investment and employment gains that the country can—and will—make.



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Consolidation seen to slow stock rally

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER four straight weeks of positive momentum, the local stock market is seen to enter the consolidation phase, although the upward bias still remains especially for this week when investors look forward to another interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

With some mixed trading emerging in the market, traders said the market would move sideways this week, but positively noted that sharp downside risks were now limited.

Although confidence has been trickling back to the market, the four-week rebound was still seen as largely seasonal rather than fundamental in nature.

MARKET PLAY

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index (Phisix) ended with a modest 0.15 percent week-on-week gain to close at 1,130.20 on Friday.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said another cut in US interest rates could push the Phisix to move past 1,150-1,170, depending on the magnitude of Wall Street's ascent. The US cut is seen to complement local monetary officials' required reserve reduction, which will free up P26 billion in the financial system, and the 25-basis point cut in overnight rates.

2tradeasia.com also said banking stocks would likely sizzle this week.

"Some of the positive stories working for the sector's favor include regionwide loan clean up, mergers and acquisitions and their foray into e-banking technology," it said.

2tradeasia.com said it was betting on Bank of the Philippine Islands at the immediate target price of P58-P60 per share; Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. at P190-P200 and Equitable PCI Bank at P30.

It also said punters might move in on tech-related plays, especially for conglomerates that were gradually converting operations towards the e-Economy, such as Ayala Corp. and Ionics.

Among energy plays, 2tradeasia.com said it was bullish on Petron Corp., whose upside target it placed at P1.70-P2, and First Philippine Holdings, at P29-P30.

"Following recent ascent in selected large-cap counters, those that were early to move against the herd are rotating gains into second- and third-tier issues, specially for stocks backed by promising potentials. Restructuring stories are coming back to life, with a keener eye on its long-term results over short-run adjustment pains," it said.

BPI Securities analyst Roberto Cano said the market was testing a critical resistance at 1,135 but had been having difficulty breaking through.

"But with the market ending mixed, we think that the market is still deciding which way to go. Recent releases of better economic figures and expectations of a lower budget deficit than targeted have provided investors an impetus to enter the market," Cano said.

"However, it is still too early to be sure of an economic recovery but market sentiment has recovered a bit as can be seen from the improvement in the daily value turnover for the past weeks to the P400 million range," he said.

Cano said that technically, the market would need to break the 1,135 resistance in order to aim for the medium-term target of 1,250. The best strategy, he noted, would be to accumulate on dips.

"Despite the market's positive close in the latter half of the week, we remain apprehensive on the market's longer-term prospects, given the limited gains and the trading swings seen this week. Investors have apparently reverted to a shorter-term investment horizon following the market's recent rally. This may indicate that while confidence is up, investors are not totally convinced as to the market's prospects next year," he said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said there was still a strong propensity for investors to brave the market.

"With the market's downside now capped to a minimal, investors are now more worried about missing a surge in stock prices than they are about the economy and corporate prospects," he said.

"At the moment, the market's momentum is clearly upward. However, we have made substantial strides over the last few weeks, so we should expect some profit taking to ensue. The market will digest the gains it has made and should consolidate a little before the short-term rally continues," he said.

GSIS readies listing of $300-M fund on PSE

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is planning to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange within the next six months a P15-billion index fund comprised of a basket of publicly listed companies whose shares will be sold mostly to foreign investors.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia told the INQUIRER that the index fund, the first of its kind in the country, would represent shares in listed companies that were included in the PSE's index or Phisix.

The concept of listing such an index-linked fund and selling its shares were approved by the GSIS board in its meeting last week, Garcia said.

"We have reconfigured our stock market portfolio such that we built it up into a PSE index basket for investors, particularly foreign, who won't have the time to track and monitor individual stocks," the GSIS chief said.

He clarified that the GSIS would not be selling shares in the individual stocks but shares of the fund itself.

Garcia declined to reveal the size of the fund but said it would be smaller than the GSIS' P35-billion exposure in the stock market. Industry sources said the index fund would initially range from $200 million to $300 million.

Sources noted that the GSIS had been restructuring its portfolio gradually in the past few months to adjust it to the composition of the index.

The GSIS chief said the pension fund would soon be scouting for an underwriter that would help the state insurer in laying out the details of the fund as well as facilitate a roadshow where the index fund would be sold to foreign investors.

The underwriter, Garcia explained, would have to determine the pricing of the portfolio.

He explained that the share price of the fund would move in tandem with the movement of the Phisix. "This is a new product that we hope would help revitalize the Philippine stock market," the GSIS chief said.

The pension fund, however, has not yet sought the approval of the PSE board but said he was confident that the listing of such a portfolio was allowed under the charter of the local bourse.

"I don't think there is a rule against this. I don't know why nobody has done this before but maybe because very few have the capability to build up their funds. If ever, this would be the first of its kind in the country," he said.

Garcia, however, clarified that the GSIS Phisix-linked fund would not have a one-to-one correspondence with the composite index but would approximate the appropriate weighting to the size of the portfolio.

The composite index of the Philippine stock market is currently comprised of 33 listed companies that are mostly blue chips with varying weightings.

The state-owned fund had been trying to engage in innovative investment strategies after sustaining losses of P10 billion from the stock market since last year.

Garcia earlier said the GSIS was also planning to venture into real estate and higher yielding debt instruments with an initial P10-billion investment. The pension fund would use its P150-billion investible funds to finance its new ventures.

"We have to create value for our 1.5 million members," the GSIS chief said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, December 7, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53	52.5	52.5	335,100
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	2,330
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	5,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22.75	23	22	22	682,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	180	180	179	179	5,000
Philippine National Bank	50	52	50	52	9,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	100,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	239	239	239	239	570
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1375	1375	240
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1190	1190	1190	1190	14,340
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	5,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	2,570,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	585	590	580	585	19,800
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	26,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	417.5	425	417.5	420	40,610
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	63,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	13,500
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	31.5	30.5	30.5	2,138,500
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.6	1.54	1.6	14,449,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2	2.02	1.98	1.98	911,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	12	12	10,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	20,600
RFM Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.22	2.22	1,075,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	28,800
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	50.5	50.5	36,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5	5	5	1,382,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	100,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.79	410,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	220,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	32,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	770,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	11	10	11	223,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.86	0.89	0.83	0.83	9,270,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	80,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	760,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	830,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27.5	27	27	884,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,400,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	860,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	150,000
Ionics Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	67,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.7	0.73	4,670,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	5,950,000
Music Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	27,650,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.39	0.43	0.37	0.41	168,760,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	2,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	1,120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	130,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	1,144,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.48	980,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.57	0.51	0.56	900,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	930,000
Manila Jockey Club	9	9	9	9	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	430,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	204,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	24.75	25	1,138,800
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	1,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	535	535	535	535	10
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.68	177,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	575	575	565	565	6,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	50,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	8,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	6,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	6,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	111,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	2,714,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,000,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,370,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.26	7,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.76	5,856,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	410,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.92	0.95	350,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	3,030,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3.2	2.5	3.2	282,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	190,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	7,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	211,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	46,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	890,000

CURRENCIES

Dec. 07, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.117568	1.000000	51.9630
Japan	Yen	0.008966	0.008023	0.4169
United Kingdom	Pound	1.596334	1.428400	74.2239
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143462	0.128370	6.6705
Switzerland	Franc	0.678424	0.607054	31.5443
Canada	Dollar	0.710514	0.635768	33.0364
Singapore	Dollar	0.611128	0.546837	28.4153
Australia	Dollar	0.579351	0.518403	26.9378
Bahrain	Dinar	2.964530	2.652661	137.8402
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298019	0.266667	13.8568
Brunei	Dollar	0.609460	0.545345	28.3378
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025481	0.022800	1.1848
UAE	Dirham	0.304348	0.272331	14.1511
Korea	Won	0.000884	0.000791	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.894800	46.4965
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.457504	23.7733
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136411	7.0883
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.406043	21.0992
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065028	3.3790
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022182	1.1526
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000462	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150495	7.8202
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004463	0.2319
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005378	0.2795
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022182	1.1526
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.136162	59.0384

Cojuangco . . .

(From page B1)

ally (the foreign partner will get 18 percent) that will put him at par with the government block. But with the SMC Retirement Fund (5 percent after the buy-in) firmly under his management team's control, the balance of power would tilt to Cojuangco's side and the second phase of his scheme will make that shift permanent.

Following the buy-in, the Cojuangco management team will use the proceeds from the new equity infusion to buy out the CIIF block (the cash would be held in escrow pending the SC ruling on its status) at the same price of $1.50 per share and later convert them into treasury shares. In the end, the government block will be reduced to 16 percent and Cojuangco will control nearly 50 percent of SMC.

Marcelo said the government's threat of legal suits against this scheme makes prospective foreign brewers have second thoughts about pulling the trigger on the deal.

The PCGG claimed that the CIIF shares would generate more than double the premium it would get under the Cojuangco scheme if it would be sold together with the government block (SSS and GSIS) because a 44-percent stake was more attractive than having only 20 percent.

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SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
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SELLING:

Alabang "A/B"	Please call/1.50 M
Baguio Country Club	725,000
Calatagan "A"	80,000
Camp John Hay Golf	250,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	Please call
Forest Hills "A"	220,000
Manila Golf (Indv.) & Corp	13M/14M
Manila Polo	2.6M
Manila Southwoods "A"	650,000
Makati Sports "A/B"	300,000/300,000
Metropolitan "A"	100,000
Orchard "C"	350,000
Puerto Azul	135,000
Quezon City Sports	220,000
Riviera "A/B/C"	Please call
Rockwell Club	400,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,580,000
Sherwood	100,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	360,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	750,000
Tagaytay Midland	650,000
Valle Verde CC	170,000
Valley Golf	230,000
Wack Wack	Please call

BUYING:

Alabang "A/B"	1,420M/1,460M
Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	250,000
Eagle Ridge "A/B/C"	Please call
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	Please call
Manila Golf (Indv.) & Corp.	12M/13M
Manila Polo	2.6M
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000
Metropolitan "A"	Please call
Mt. Malarayat "A/B/C"	Please call
Orchard "A"	200,000
Quezon City Sports	220,000
Riviera "A/B/C"	Please call
Rockwell Club	380,000
Sta. Elena "A/B"	Please call
Sherwood "A/B/C"	Please call
Tagaytay Highland Club	350,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	750,000
Tagaytay Midland	650,000
Valle Verde CC "C"	320,000
Wack Wack	6.3M

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CLUBS	ASKED Price
ALABANG "A"	1,500,000
BAGUIO CC	800,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	370,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	230,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	730,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	800,000
ORCHARD "C"	550,000
RIVIERA GCC "A" / "B"	Call now
ROCKWELL CLUB	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	1,700,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	750,000
WACK-WACK GOLF	Call now

Share Swapping: Please Call

CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	1,400,000
BAGUIO CC	740,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	220,000
CAPITOL HILLS	Call now
CC AT TAGAYTAY	Call now
MAKATI SPORTS "A"	Call now
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	11,000,000
MANILA POLO	2,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	750,000
ORCHARD "A"	Call now
RIVIERA "A"	Call now
STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
WACK-WACK GOLF	5,875,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
CANLUBANG GC	50,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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Alabang CC	1,400,000	1,350,000
Camp John Hay	Pls.Call	250,000
Canyon Woods	300,000	200,000
Celebrity Sports	195,000	-
Club Filipino	250,000	-
The Country Club	4,500,000	-
Eagleridge-B	400,000	-
Eastridge	200,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	-
Fontana C	130,000	-
Fontana D	80,000	-
Forest Hills A	250,000	230,000
Forest Hills B	-	240,000
Forest Hills C	400,000	-
Makati Sports	320,000	-
Manila Golf	-	12,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods A	700,000	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat	-	330,000
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Orchard	250,000	Pls. Call
Riviera	200,000	-
Sherwood	150,000	-
Sta. Elena	Pls.Call	1,500,000
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Tagaytay CC	390,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
Tivoli Royale	150,000	-
Valle Verde A	180,000	180,000
Valle Verde C	-	300,000
Wack-wack	8,600,000	-

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	50,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Tagaytay Midlands	45,000
~~Orchard~~	10,000	Tagaytay Highlands	45,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Wack-wack	90,000

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www.ggaclubshares.com

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,350,000	Please Call
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,400,000	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	725,000	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	100,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	-	800,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	330,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	175,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	275,000	325,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	13,500,000
Manila Polo	2,600,000	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	650,000	700,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	Please Call
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	70,000	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	240,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	-	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,650,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	350,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	190,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	360,000
Tagaytay Highlands	740,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	-	720,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	220,000	240,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,100,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	55,000	Riviera "A"	10,000
Eaglendge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	40,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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3. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000.00	-
4. CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	600,000.00	-
5. CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
6. CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000.00	Please call
7. EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	500,000.00	-
8. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	-
9. FONTANA "C"	150,000.00	-
10. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
11. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000.00	-
12. MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	2,700,000.00
13. MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	Please call	-
14. MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	Please call	Please call
15. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000.00	-
16. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000.00	Please call
17. METRO CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
18. MIMOSA C-2	350,000.00	-
19. MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
20. MT. MALARAYAT "A"	350,000.00	-
21. MT. MALARAYAT "C"	600,000.00	-
22. ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000.00	-
23. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	140,000.00	-
24. PUNTA FUEGO (IND.)	945,000.00	-
25. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000.00	200,000.00
26. ROCKWELL	550,000.00	-
27. RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	Please call
28. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,760,000.00	-
29. SUBIC YATCH CLUB	750,000.00 all in	-
30. SPLENDIDO	600,000.00	-
31. SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	130,000.00	90,000.00
32. SHERWOOD HILLS "C"	-	250,000.00
33. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	-	750,000.00
34. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	650,000.00
35. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	175,000.00	-
36. VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
37. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	8,400,000 all in
38. THE COUNTRY CLUB	4,000,000.00	-
39. OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	30,000.00	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental	TAGAYTAY INT'L. GOLF CLUB	50,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	18,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	90,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
		OTHERS	Please call

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Gov't, Tan move closer to PNB agreement

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

TAIPAN Lucio Tan has reportedly agreed in principle to give the government a "put option" covering its shares in Philippine National Bank in the event of a joint sale that would leave the Macapagal administration with only 8 percent in the sixth-largest lender.

A put option agreement will give the government an opportunity to sell its remaining stake to the taipan if he ends up controlling PNB anew after a joint sale of the two groups.

"I think we could sign the terms of reference or the term sheet within the year because the final hurdle would be the exit mechanism, which includes a provision for a put option for the government," a ranking government source said.

He said the inter-agency team finalizing the details of the debt-to-equity conversion of PNB's P25-billion emergency loan from state institutions were already drafting the details of the put option plan.

An agreement on the put option would allow the government to finally sign a term sheet for the debt-to-equity conversion or re-nationalization of PNB.

A memorandum of agreement would be signed once the approvals, including a Department of Justice opinion, have been secured. A DOJ opinion was sought by the government to determine if there were no legal obstacles for state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to own shares in PNB.

The government source explained that the PDIC, being a bank regulator, might be barred from owning shares in a bank.

"But the government believes that even if the PDIC was a regulator, it also needs to protect its interest when it had made advances to a bank like PNB," the source said.

State agencies PDIC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas extended a P10 billion and P15 billion in financial assistance to PNB in October 2000 when the bank encountered heavy withdrawals.

Of the P25 billion, PNB has already paid P1.1 billion to the central bank.

The government intends to convert P7.8 billion of the PNB debts into government equity, offset P10 billion of government advances from PNB, and restructure as part of the bank's rehabilitation over a 10-year period the remaining P6.1 billion.

The government explained that an exit mechanism must be discussed as part of the debt-to-equity deal to ensure a long-term recovery of the bank.

The government had wanted to secure a veto power as part of the exit mechanism to give it the right to have a final say in any decision-making in the bank even after a joint sale with Tan.

But the taipan had reportedly rejected the veto proposal even after he had insisted on getting a right of first offer, an assurance that the block to be sold jointly would be offered to him first.

The joint sale provision in the pending agreement would require the government and Tan to pool about 37 percent each to be able to sell a stake that would be attractive to investors since a 67-percent equity would give the buyer a super-majority control in the bank.

Pooling their stakes would leave both groups with about 8 percent each, a situation that could become problematic for the government if Tan would decide to buy the joint stake.

Last Nov. 14, both the government and Tan reported that they agreed on several important points, including the P40 per share price for the conversion of part of PNB's P25-billion debts into government equity.

On management control in PNB, the two groups have agreed to nominate one independent director each and appoint four representatives each to the 11-member board.

Nextel . . .

(From page B4)

operations to more closely align with anticipated sources of financing, and following our most recent review of economic conditions, operating performance and other relevant factors relating to our Philippine operating company, during the third quarter of 2001 we decided to discontinue incremental funding to our Philippine operating company," the US SEC document stated.

Also, NII supposedly wrote off its investments in its local subsidiary because of the 40-percent foreign ownership cap on utilities as stated in the Constitution.

Lawyer Alan Paguia of the Alan F. Paguia and Associates law firm earlier wrote Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez a letter accusing Nextel's local shareholders of being dummies for NII.

He also wrote that these two companies, Gamboa Holdings and Emerald Investments, held only 20 percent and 28 percent of Nextel's capital stock.

"NII has claimed ownership of 59 percent of NCPI's capital stock," the letter stated.

The NII website also indicated that it owned 59.1 percent of NCPI.

But Jularbal insisted that NCPI "is, and has always been, structured in accordance with Philippine laws, rules and regulations."

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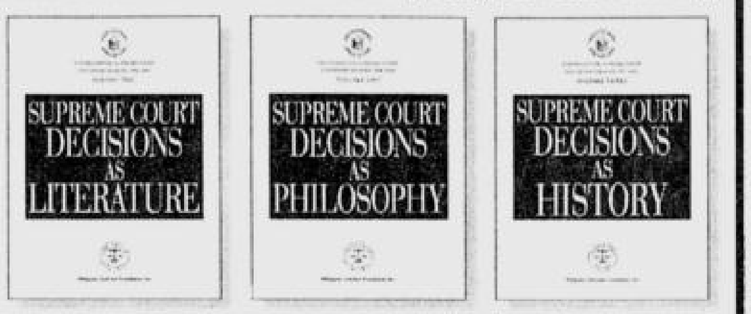

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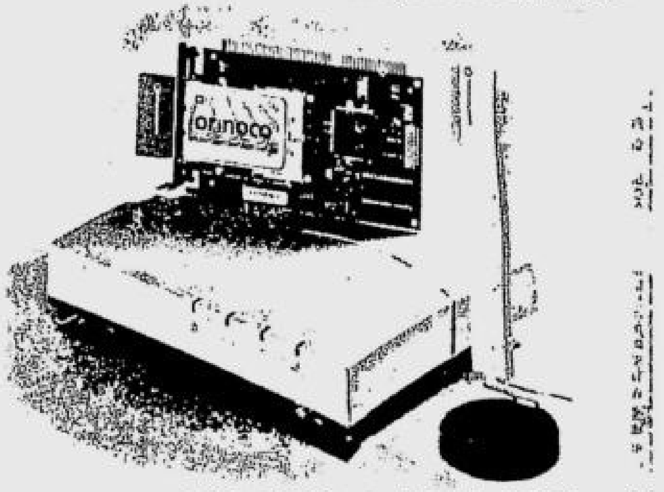

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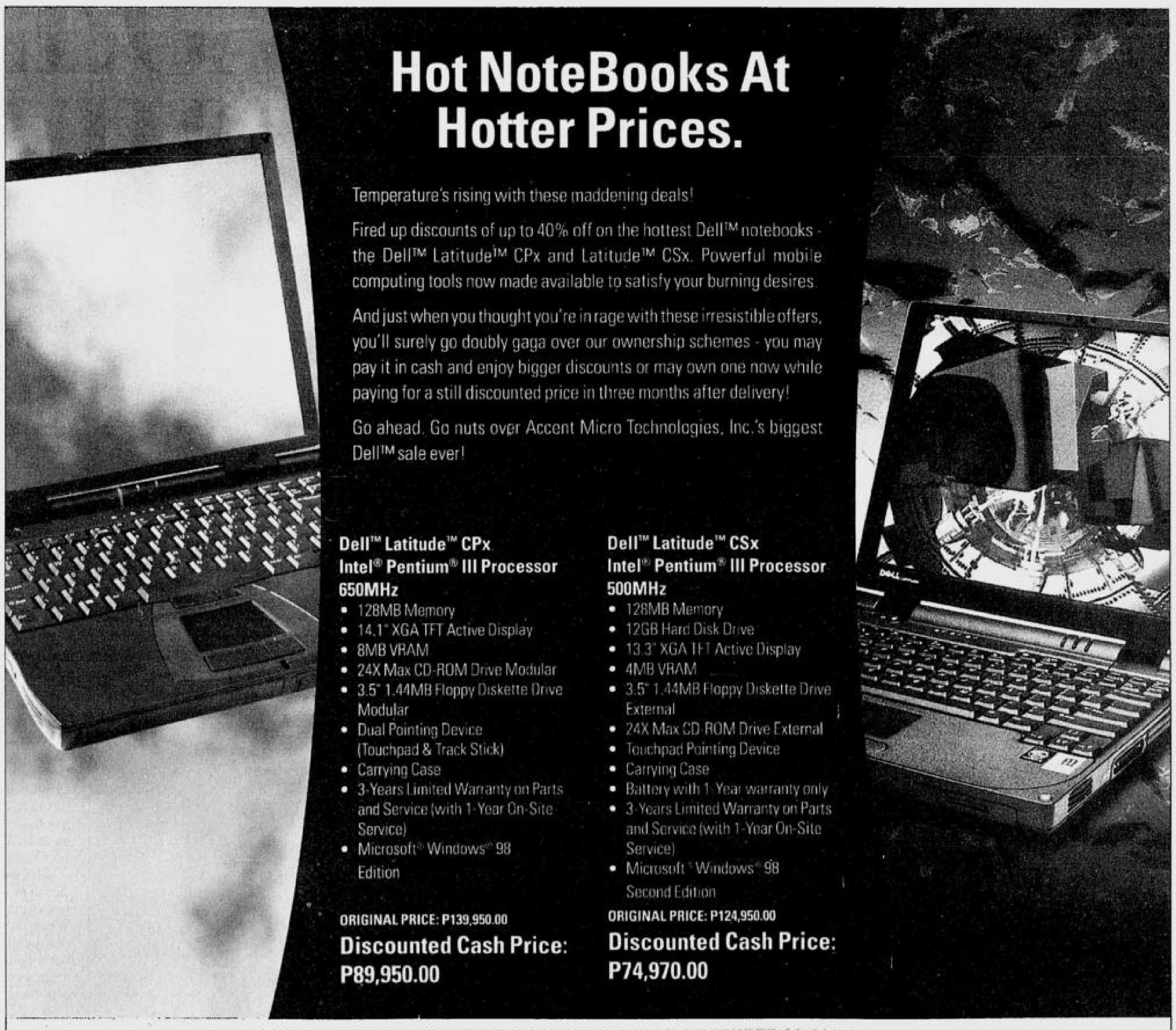

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BSP seen to further cut key policy rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board would further cut the BSP's overnight rates by another 25 basis points next week if the US Federal Reserve would ease its rates anew.

"The expectation is that the US Fed will cut its rates again by another 25 basis points and if this pushes through, I think there is a good chance we can match it," said the central bank chief.

Short-term interest rates in the United States are down to 2 percent. The US Fed will meet on Dec. 11 to discuss the possibility of another reduction.

Monetary authorities, said Buenaventura, wanted to ease interest rates to help boost the economy in the first half of year 2002 in view of expectations that it will remain weak.

The economy is expected to recover in the second half of the year with export receipts seen to rise substantially with the projected rebound in the US economy next year.

With the planned cut as well as last week's reduction in policy rates, Buenaventura said the government's borrowing rate, as reflected by the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield, should go down to 8.25 percent by yearend.

The 91-day treasury bill rate slid by 31.1 basis points in last week's auction to an average of 8.987 percent, its lowest level since July.

"The T-bill rates should move down further. I think it can hit 8.25 percent in this year's last auction," said the central bank chief.

Buenaventura also believed that the peso would remain below 52 to a dollar until end of this year.

With its intention to help boost a flagging economy next year, the central bank is also prepared to allow domestic liquidity, which measures the amount of money in the system, to grow to about 13 percent next year.

Buenaventura said domestic liquidity was expected to grow by only 11 percent this year, much lower than an earlier target of 15 percent.

Money supply contracted after the central bank increased the banks' reserve requirement in late July and early August.

Last week, monetary authorities also reduced the reserve requirement by two percentage points. The move will free some P26 billion in funds into the system.

"I think we are on track and the challenge for next year is how to attract more foreign direct investors. This will be highly influenced by how they will perceive the peace and order situation here," said Buenaventura.

Digitel raises rates

By Abigail L. Ho

TELECOMMUNICATIONS firm Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. will raise its national direct distance dialing rate for Digitel to Digitel landline calls to P3 per minute next year from P2 a minute.

The increase will take effect on Jan. 1, 2002.

For Digitel to non-Digitel calls, the rate was already increased on Dec. 1 to P4 a minute from the previous rate of P3 per minute, exclusive of value-added tax.

Digitel director for product management Chito Geronimo said in a briefing last week that these rates would likely be maintained up to the end of next year.

Geronimo said the company would also review its international long distance rate.

"We have no plans to change this now. We still don't know the market trend," he said.

Geronimo said Digitel had to raise its rates because of its increasing costs.

"There are current loans that we are servicing," he added.

He admitted that Digitel's local exchange carrier business continued to be Digitel's "biggest revenue earner."

Despite the holiday season, when call traffic is usually significantly high, Geronimo said Digitel's traffic remained flat.

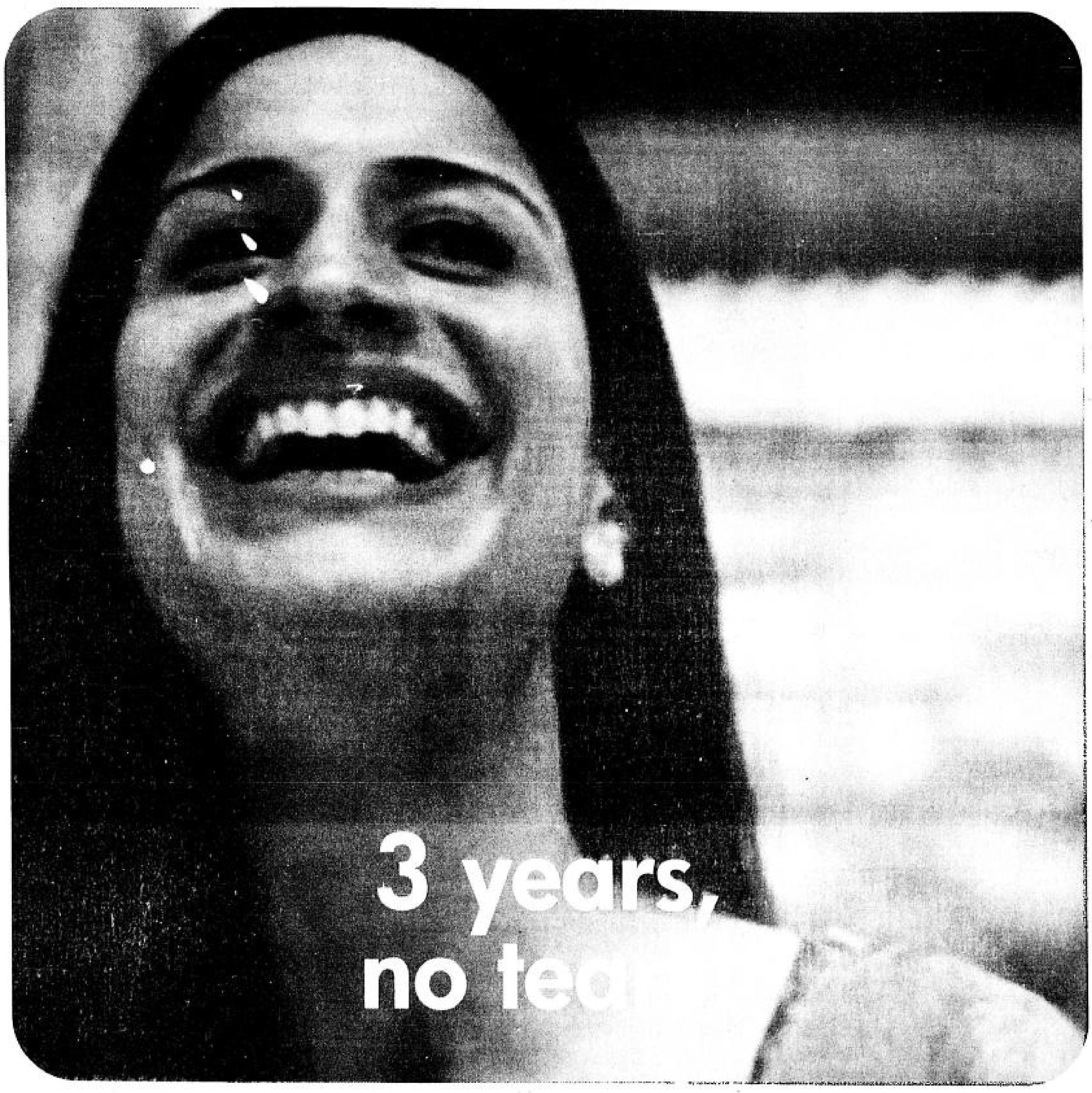
He attributed this to the economic slowdown and the increasing popularity of text messaging.

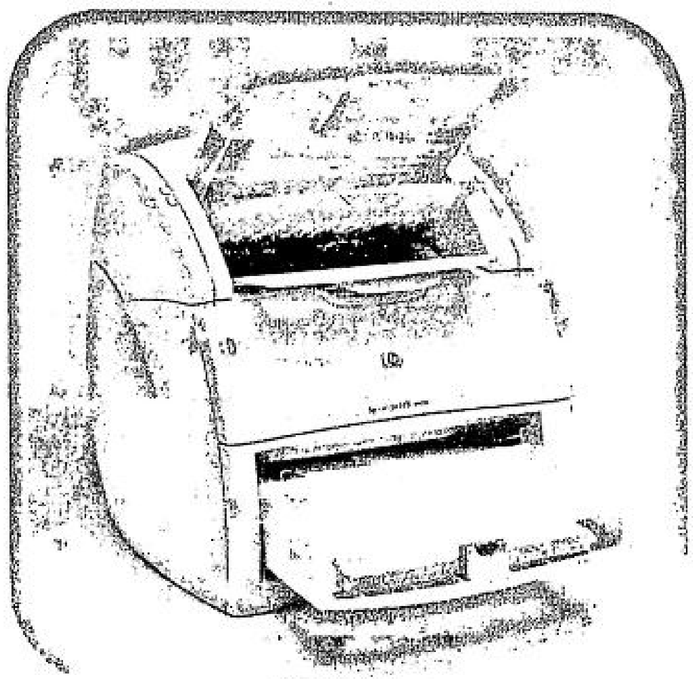
"Most people are going home to their families. Instead of spending for calls, they just use the money to personally visit their relatives and friends. Text messaging also impacts on our business," he said.

With the increased rates, Geronimo assured Digitel subscribers that they could expect more value-added service from the company.

He said Digitel has been in talks with other carriers for the introduction of landline text messaging features in Digitel phones.

Digitel phones now offers several value-added features such as call forwarding, call waiting, voice mail and caller ID.





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Mindanao . . .

(From page B2)

(Primed), Drs. Lourdes and Fermin Adriano identified the pursuit of peace in Mindanao as an "economic imperative."

They point out that the combined pursuit of peace and development should not be confined to conventional strategies such as focusing primarily on short-term relief and rehabilitation efforts, and employing 'peace-time' budgeting and investment programming.

A business-as-usual approach, where development interventions are mainly economic in nature, will not work in a situation as difficult, complex and deep-rooted as Mindanao's.

According to the Primed study, the government and its partners "have to be more imaginative, flexible, and non-traditional in packaging its interventions for peace and development."

Interventions must necessarily be multi-sectoral and should work on different levels, combining reforms in policies, institutions, and in the legal system with the initiatives of civil society, the donor community and the private sector.

- Mindanao's enhanced participation in the BIMP-Eaga initiative is bound to boost trade.

Starting in 1994, the groundwork was laid for the participation of Mindanao and Palawan in the sub-regional cooperation called the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga).

The growth area made definitive strides in its early years, but entered into a lull following the Asian Crisis. The Macapagal administration has been pushing steadily for its revitalization and these efforts have generated a positive response in Eaga neighbors.

A key factor in Eaga's importance to Mindanao and to the Philippines is the predominance of Muslim traders and investment partners in the growth area. This is a distinct advantage for Mindanao, and can help boost the economy and social stability in Muslim areas that are lagging in development.

"The Mindanao Agenda" incorporates BIMP-Eaga priorities: increasing trade, tourism and investments in the sub-region by facilitating freer movement of people, goods and services, sharing common infrastructure and natural resources, and economic complementation.

The momentum regained in Eaga in recent months, if sustained and properly exploited in Mindanao, can contribute to the national economy.

- The existence of Mindanao-wide networks facilitates development.

One of Mindanao's unique advantages is its physical and sectoral integration, which can expedite the speedy, focused and integrated implementation of development initiatives.

There are close working relationships between regional networks of development partners, which includes Mindanao-wide government bodies such as the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) and the Mindanao Business Council, representing the private sector.

There is also the Mindanao Lawmakers Association and the Mindanao Confederation of Governors, City Mayors, and Municipal Mayor League Presidents (Confed), as well as non-government alliances such as Kusog Mindanaw, Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs (Mincode) and the Mindanao Studies Convenors Group, etc.

The well-established channels of communication and cooperation between the various networks are one of Mindanao's hidden strengths. When called upon to support common causes that would benefit the region, these networks have demonstrated a readiness to go beyond basic sectoral differences and rally on behalf of Mindanao.

It is clear that the recovery of Mindanao will in large measure determine the success of national efforts to meet the socio-economic challenges that lie ahead.

If we Filipinos are serious about dealing with the economic slump, and mitigating its effects on the country's poorest and most vulnerable, then we should all take steps to address the issues in "The Mindanao Agenda," and collectively implement the recommended interventions.

(Jo-Ann de Belen is executive director of the Mindanao Economic Development Council.)

ERC chief defends state regulatory powers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CHIEF of the Energy Regulatory Commission said last week that the existence of natural monopolies in the power sector was a main reason why regulation in the industry was needed amid a restructuring.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act created the ERC, an independent, quasi-judicial body.

The commission is tasked "to promote competition, encourage market development, ensure customer choice and penalize abuse of market power in the restructured electricity industry."

"The nature of energy regulation is fundamentally 'business' or 'economic' impressed with public interest," ERC Chair Fe Barin told a forum hosted by the Knowledge Institute.

Barin said the importance of the energy industry, in terms of the basic service it provided, also required regulation.

This is also needed when competition does not work, she said.

Power industry experts refer to the transmission and distribution sectors as "natural monopolies."

Their being monopolies cannot be helped because having two sets of transmission lines in the same area will be uneconomical, experts explain.

Also, existing distribution utilities will remain monopolies because, like motorways, it will be more costly for consumers to pay for two sets of poles and wires.

Under restructuring, demonopolization will affect the distribution sector only in the sale of electricity.

The distribution sector currently lumps the wires and retail businesses, which the law aims to separate.

"Under the ERC's broad framework, regulation would eventually be light-handed or minimalist," Barin further said.

She said regulation would be responsive to the industry to promote not only investor confidence but also financing from international sources.

As early as three years after the law took effect, the franchise areas of power distributors would be opened to competition.

Cebu Pacific to fly to South Korea, Singapore next month

CEBU Pacific will fly next month to Singapore and Seoul, following its successful Hong Kong commercial service.

"This is proof that President Macapagal-Arroyo's government is committed to a market economy and opening up opportunities to new players," Lance Gokongwei, Cebu Pacific president, said.

To mount its international flights, the airline, Gokongwei said, invested initially $100 million in new aircraft, personnel training and new equipment. "New investments are the result of a well-envisioned open-market policy."

Ultimately, he said it was the flying public that would benefit from the additional service Cebu Pacific would offer "in the same way they benefited when we came into the domestic service in 1996 with our low-fare, great value philosophy."

"Our service is just the start. What is not apparent now is that the whole country will benefit from having multiple fag carriers when our economy starts to mend with the rest of the world in terms of more tourists, and possibly investors," he said.

Tourism and commercial airline service always go together, he said. Easy access encourages tourists to fly in, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants and buy local products.

Gokongwei said Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez had been actively opening up new routes to new players, not just Cebu Pacific.

"This is really a partnership between the government and the private sector and this model should be welcomed because it will definitely give long-term benefits to the nation," he said.

Gokongwei said the first of the two Boeing 757s Cebu Pacific was acquiring for its international service was scheduled to arrive next week. They should start flying their routes by the third of the month.

Bayantel tells customers it will remain viable in years to come

By Abigail L. Ho

CASH-STRAPPED Bayan Telecommunications Inc. has assured its subscribers that it will remain viable in the coming years despite a $477-million debt load that it is negotiating to restructure with its creditors.

"We don't expect financial worries to affect our service quality to them," Bayantel chief finance officer Gerry Olivar said in an interview last week.

He admitted that the Lopez-owned telecommunications firm was having problems keeping and acquiring subscribers, but he remained optimistic about its landline business.

"We have been showing a net decline (in subscriber numbers) mainly because of operational problems, which we have now been fixing, as well as our lack of advertising. But we're holding our own, I guess. We are confident that we can resume normal market advertising spending next year," he said.

Bayantel currently has 230,000 subscribers. Its total capacity is placed at 430,000 lines.

Olivar said despite its financial woes, Bayantel had made some moves to help improve their landline business.

"We've fully replaced all the batteries (that serve as back-up power), in case of outages," he said.

There have been numerous complaints in the past from Bayantel subscribers that their lines go dead whenever there are power outages, especially those that last for several hours.

Bayantel's data services will fuel the company's turnaround, Olivar said.

"Our data services continue to grow. We're going in the direction of data and Internet services. We expect to grow the business through data," he said.

He added that Bayantel's P1.5-billion capital expenditures next year would mostly be earmarked for its data business.

Bayantel chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa said Bayantel's data business would grow by 25 to 30 percent next year compared with this year's below 20-percent growth.

"Almost all our new capex will be for data. There will be some maintenance capex for voice, but most will be for the expansion and upgrade of our data services," he said.

Olivar said Bayantel could meet its capex requirements even without additional equity infusion from its shareholders.

"Our capex every year, as proposed to the creditors, is P1.5 billion. We feel that even without additional shareholder funds, we will be able to sustain the capex," he said.

He said Bayantel's foreign partner, Verizon Communications, was not about to abandon the debt-ridden Lopez firm.

Gov't sets Napocor roadshow

ENERGY Secretary Vicente Perez said last week that the government would launch a pre-marketing road show for the National Power Corp.'s privatization with President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the United States next month.

"The President will return to the United States for the World Economic Forum. That will be a venue for us to do a pre-marketing road show," Perez told reporters.

He said the government would conduct one-on-one meetings with possible investors from the United States after which a similar mission would tour Europe and Asia.

"We are hoping to have the privatization advisers—Credit Suisse First Boston and NM Rothschild—put together some information memoranda by January," he said.

The issuance of the memoranda would signify that all the requirements for Napocor's privatization would be met.

Part of this is a privatization plan that the joint congressional power committee has yet to approve.

Also pending for the committee's go-ahead are the implementing rules of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which mandates Napocor's privatization.

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TERRORIST SHOCKWAVE

US unemployment rate jumps to 6-yr. high

WASHINGTON—The US unemployment rate leapt to a six-year high in November, government figures showed Friday, smothering recovery hopes in the terror-shaken economy.

The jobless rate jumped to 5.7 percent in November from 5.4 percent in October as the terrorist shockwave helped destroy 331,000 jobs, the Labor Department said.

"It is ugly," said Conference Board economist Delos Smith.

"You are talking about a little under 800,000 jobs lost in two months—it is really grim news," he said.

Analysts said the November jobs carnage, following the loss of 468,000 jobs in October, presented a serious threat to US consumer confidence and spending.

And the figures ratcheted up the pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates yet again next week.

"Can expenditure continue to be so robust in the face of a decline in employment which has negative implications for income and rising unemployment rates which has negative implications for confidence?" asked Bank of Montreal economist Paul Ferley.

"It is a bit of a worry."

On Wall Street, which had been racing higher on hopes of a quick recovery, the Dow Jones industrials index dropped 49.68 points, or 0.49 percent, to close at 10,049.46.

"Friday's weaker employment data should put to rest much of the talk about the recession possibly being over. It is not," Wachovia Securities economist Jay Bryson said in a report.

"Job losses were larger and more widespread than expected in November," he added.

Economists still forecast a gradually accelerating economic expansion in 2002.

But they also expected the job market to deteriorate. Barclays Capital economist Henry Willmore forecast an unemployment rate of 6.0 to 6.5 percent in the first half of next year.

US President George W. Bush pressed lawmakers to speed passage of a stimulus package, stalled by disagreement in the Senate over Democrat proposals for a $73-billion program.

"Today's unemployment numbers are troubling and they underscore that we must act to ensure America's economic security," Bush said in a written statement.

"The most important thing we can do for unemployed workers and those who are concerned about their jobs is to get the economy growing," he said.

The US Federal Reserve is also expected to act when policymakers meet Tuesday to decide whether to cut interest rates again in the wake of the Sept. 11 suicide onslaught.

Most analysts tipped a cut of 0.25 percentage points in the key federal funds target rate, which already has been sliced to 2.0 percent from 6.50 percent this year.

The unemployment figures hardened the case for action, they said. *AFP*

Citizen, Seiko to link operations

TOKYO—Japanese wristwatch makers Seiko Corp. and Citizen Watch Co. plan to merge operations to survive intense competition with their Swiss and Chinese rivals, a daily said Saturday.

From early next year, the two firms will jointly buy yellow copper for watch parts, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

Their purchase of the metal, which was estimated at 600 million yen ($4.8 million) a year, would reduce costs by 5 percent, the business daily said, adding that the two planned to expand joint purchase items.

Seiko and Citizen, which have already started cooperation in shipments, also plan to supply wristwatch parts for each other next year, the newspaper said.

Japanese watchmakers dominated the global market in the 1970s but are now suffering declines in their market share.

Last year, Japanese firms manufactured some 98 million wristwatches, including overseas output, down 23 percent from 1997, the daily said, quoting the Japan Clock and Watch Association.

The production represented a 36-percent slide in value from 1997, and it is expected to fall further in both volume and value this year amid the downturn in the US economy in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the daily said.

Japanese firms are now trying to focus on the upscale market dominated by Swiss firms because they are facing intensifying competition from Chinese manufacturers in the market for mass-marketed watches.

But their efforts have not succeeded because Japanese products have yet to acquire the luxury brand image of Swiss, the Nihon Keizai said. *AFP*

Oil prices on the slide

LONDON—Oil prices suffered further losses on Friday in the absence of any firm deal between leading producers to restrict supply.

A barrel of Brent North Sea crude for January delivery slipped to $18.10 here in late trade, down 30 cents on the day.

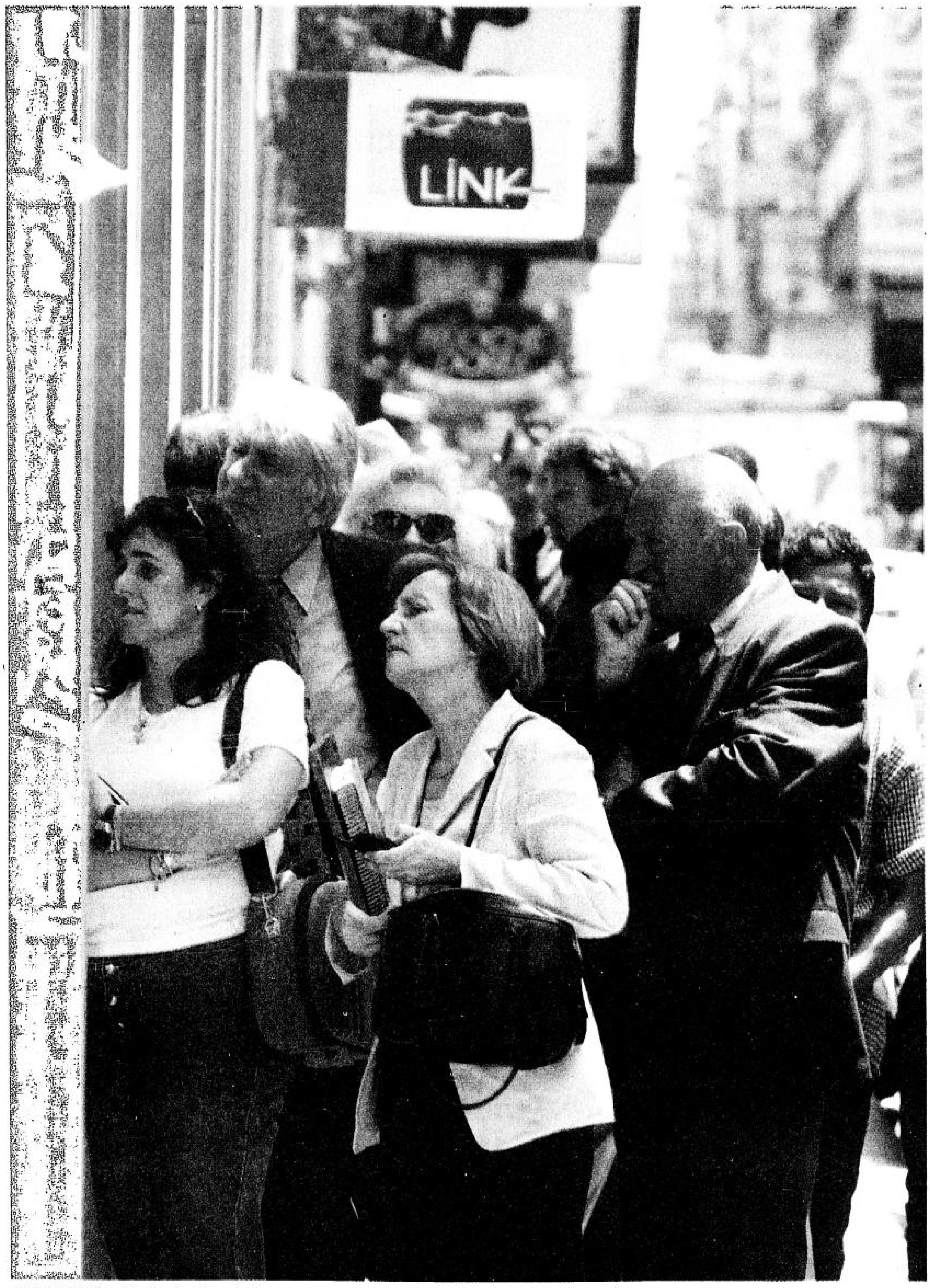
In New York, January-dated light sweet crude futures shed another 29 cents to $18.25.

Producers raised expectations earlier this week that a coordinated output cut masterminded by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could be close at hand, after Russia promised to reduce exports by 150,000 barrels per day.

But Opec is still prevaricating, wanting cast-iron guarantees on cutback volumes, particularly from Norway, which has so far offered only woolly numbers.

"It has fallen because Opec and Norway are talking a lot but aren't doing anything, said Prudential Bache trader Luca Bertali.

Opec wants Russia, Norway and other non-Opec countries to reduce output by 500,000 bpd in total. Only then will it proceed with a reduction of its own of 1.5 million bpd. The idea is to slash global supply in line with demand, which is dwindling amid the global economic slowdown. *AFP*



ARGENTINES wait in line to enter a bank to open new accounts and obtain credit cards in Buenos Aires. AP

Europe condemns US call for steel tariffs

WASHINGTON—The European Commission issued a heated criticism Friday of a US trade panel's recommendation for tariffs of up to 40 percent on foreign steel imports.

The six members of the US International Trade Commission made varying recommendations for protection of the US industry, including tariffs ranging up to 40 percent.

The quasi-judicial body had found in October that imports of 12 major steel products caused "serious injury" to the US industry.

A 40-percent tariff, if implemented, would virtually close the US steel market from the world, the European Commission said in a written statement received here.

It vowed to appeal any such tariff measure to the World Trade Organization.

The panel's disparate recommendations are to be forwarded to US President George W. Bush in 12 days. The president has until February to make a final decision.

The European Union's trade commissioner, Pascal Lamy, urged Bush to reject the call for tariffs, saying the US industry's problems were due to its failure to restructure, not imports.

"This is a worryingly negative signal to send the rest of the world," Lamy said.

"The EU calls on the US administration to reject this call for the protection of an industry that is already sheltering behind numerous defensive measures," Lamy added.

"The US steel industry needs to put its own house in order. This should not be done at the expense of those who have already done so."

Europe believed the panel's recommendations, if implemented, were unjustified and would flout WTO rules, Lamy said in the statement.

"The EU would immediately launch a complaint and is confident that this would lead to a rapid condemnation of the US measures," the EU statement said.

The Europeans said the US steel market was already over-protected with 123 anti-dumping and 31 anti-subsidy measures and noted that US steel imports were sliding. *AFP*

Singapore backs severe wage cuts

SINGAPORE—Singapore's National Wages Council on Saturday issued new labor guidelines backing "severe" pay cuts to help companies ride out the city-state's worst recession in 36 years.

However, the council urged employers to consider retrenchments only as a last resort with the number of people losing their jobs expected to reach 25,000 this year.

NWC chair Lim Pin said cuts in employers' contributions to a state-administered pension fund, which still had to be fully restored after being slashed during the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, "cannot be ruled out" but would only be done in extremis.

"Given the worsening economic conditions and the increasing number of workers being retrenched, the NWC strongly urges the government, employers and trade unions to take concerted actions to save jobs," the council said in its latest report.

It recommended that "for the majority whose business profitability or prospects are adversely affected by the severe economic downturn, they may, in consultation with their unions/workers, implement a wage freeze or cut commensurate with their performance and prospects."

Companies that were still doing well "should reward their workers with appropriate wage increases" and should not use the economic slump as an excuse to cut salaries and other benefits, the council said.

"Effective implementation of the above severe wage restraint guidelines will save jobs and control wage costs, to help companies remain viable and the economy to cope with the recession."

The council also "strongly urged" the public sector to continue to keep other overheads down and called on companies to be transparent when advising workers of the corporate financial position. *AFP*

Vietnamese police seize fake VCDs

HANOI, Vietnam—Vietnamese police have seized about 40,000 pirated compact discs and videotapes in southern Ho Chi Minh City, state-controlled media reported Saturday.

Police also seized CD copying machines in the raids Friday, the Lao Dong (Labor) trade union newspaper said.

Last week, Vietnam's National Assembly approved a US trade agreement in which the government pledged to open the country's markets to foreign trade and investment and tighten copyright protection.

Last month, police in Ho Chi Minh City seized more than 40,000 CDs, VCDs and DVDs, in the largest ever confiscation in the city.

In September, police in Hanoi arrested the leaders of what they said was the capital's largest video piracy ring and seized more than 50,000 pirated CDs, VCDs and videotapes.

Pirated CDs are widely available in Vietnam for about 13,000 dong (87 cents) a piece. *AP*

Workplace 'desk rage' in US leads to violence, stress, insomnia

WASHINGTON—Stressed-out US workers coping with the economic downturn and post-Sept. 11 job cuts suffer from so-called desk rage, which leads to violence, high stress and insomnia, a study revealed Friday.

One in 10 Americans said stress-induced physical violence had occurred in their workplace, according to a study released by Integra Realty Resources, a real estate advisory firm.

Workplace violence is the second-leading cause of death for Americans on the job, the Insurance Information Institute said in April.

Stress at work led 30 percent of those asked to be unable to sleep, 10 percent said they had called in sick because of stress, and 9 percent of those asked said workplace stress was a serious problem for them.

Those who worked in high-rise buildings were severely impacted by the Sept. 11 terror strikes on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon outside Washington, the study showed.

Thirteen percent of those working in skyscrapers said they had considered changing jobs since Sept. 11 and 37 percent said they were more fearful for their personal safety in the wake of the attacks.

Many of those polled complained of work-related physical ailments: 58 percent said they suffered from back or neck pain; 40 percent mentioned eye strain; and 34 percent cited the problem of pain in their hands.

Some 24 percent of those surveyed said their stress levels would decrease if they could telecommute, or work from home.

The study, conducted by Opinion Research Corp. International in Princeton, New Jersey, polled 1,206 working adults in the United States by telephone from Nov. 8 to 12 and had a margin of error of three percentage points. *AFP*

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XTO M/T Special Edition	759,000	127,800	30,474	21,834	379,500	12,809	9,317
XTO A/T	773,000	106,660	31,036	22,237	386,500	12,222	8,891
XTO M/T	733,000	108,600	29,430	21,086	366,500	11,853	8,621
XT M/T	670,000	114,000	26,901	19,274	335,000	11,349	8,255

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The oil industry has never been the same again. With the aggressive entry of Eastern Petroleum in December 10, 1996, exciting things have happened. New doors were opened, new opportunities came our way. All in the name of service, in our mission to give to the Filipinos only the best.

Fast forward to 2001. Eastern Petroleum celebrates five years of serving the nation by aiming higher than ever. Yes, "we are not resting on our laurels," as the men and women of Eastern Petroleum and their President, Fernando Martinez, would put it. Amidst the economic challenges our country experiences today, Eastern remains optimistic and steadfast --- bullish, as you wish --- for they believe, brighter perspectives are in the offing.

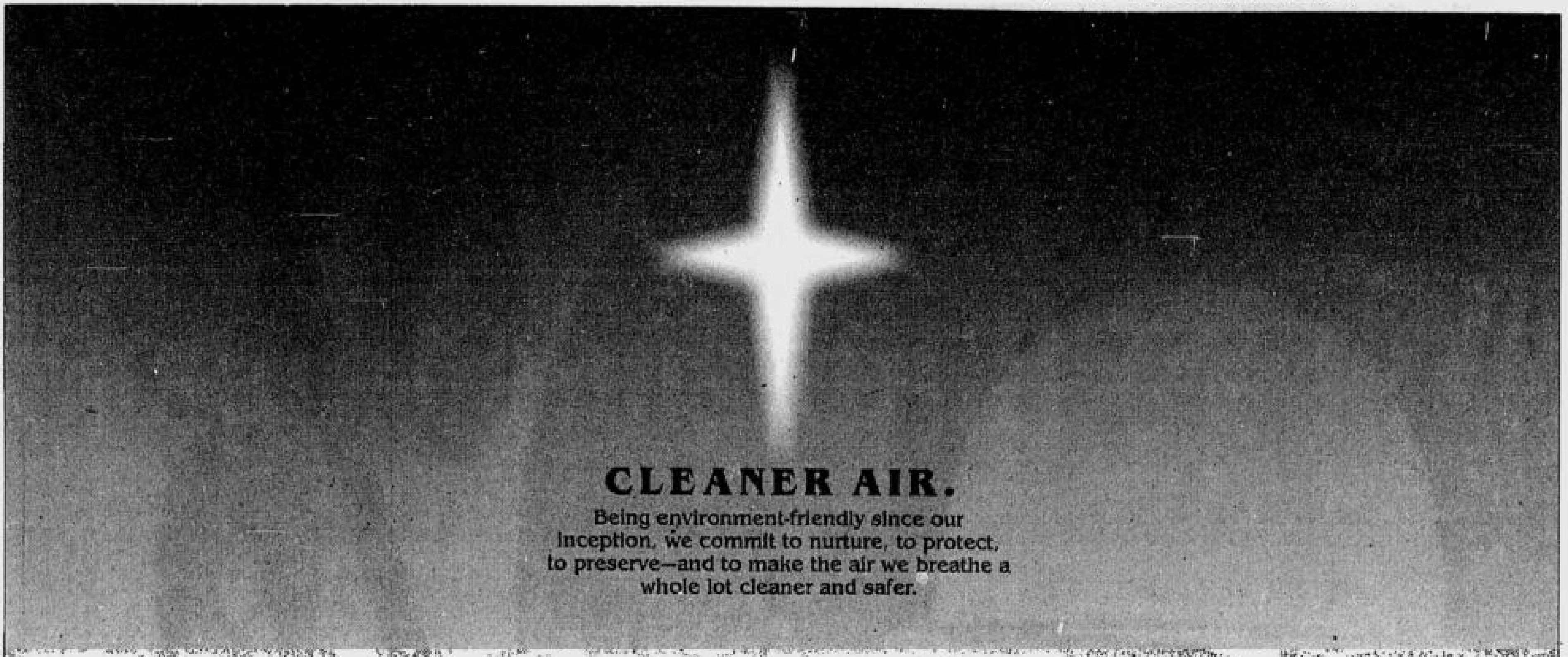
Looking beyond, Eastern charts a grand plan to exceed everybody's expectations. It sets bigger target number of Gasolinahang-Bayan --- from 30 locations, it moves up for a wider reach across the nation. Eastern projects that by the year 2005, there will be 200 new generation Eastern Energy Stations.

All these new Energy Stations will be located where the real 'masa' is. Eastern Petroleum aims to provide the masses the best alternative source of petroleum products with topnotch brand of service at the most competitive prices. In the first place, this is the essence of Eastern existence. And it hasn't wavered at all in five years of operations. Actually, it gears up to bring innovative products and services in the future.

Eastern GasolinahangBayan rises across the nation to serve the 'masa' and raises the standard of service for the Filipino.

Five years and aiming for more. More choices, more innovative services, to respond to the needs and demands of every Filipino. More energy stations, more grounds to break to reach more people across the nation. More products that would make this world a better place to live at. More opportunities to power up the economy and to revitalize our country.

With Eastern Petroleum aiming high on its fifth anniversary, things will never be the same again.



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BETTER LIVES.

More competitive prices. More choices. More chances for you and your family to enjoy the best things in life.

MORE SERVICES.

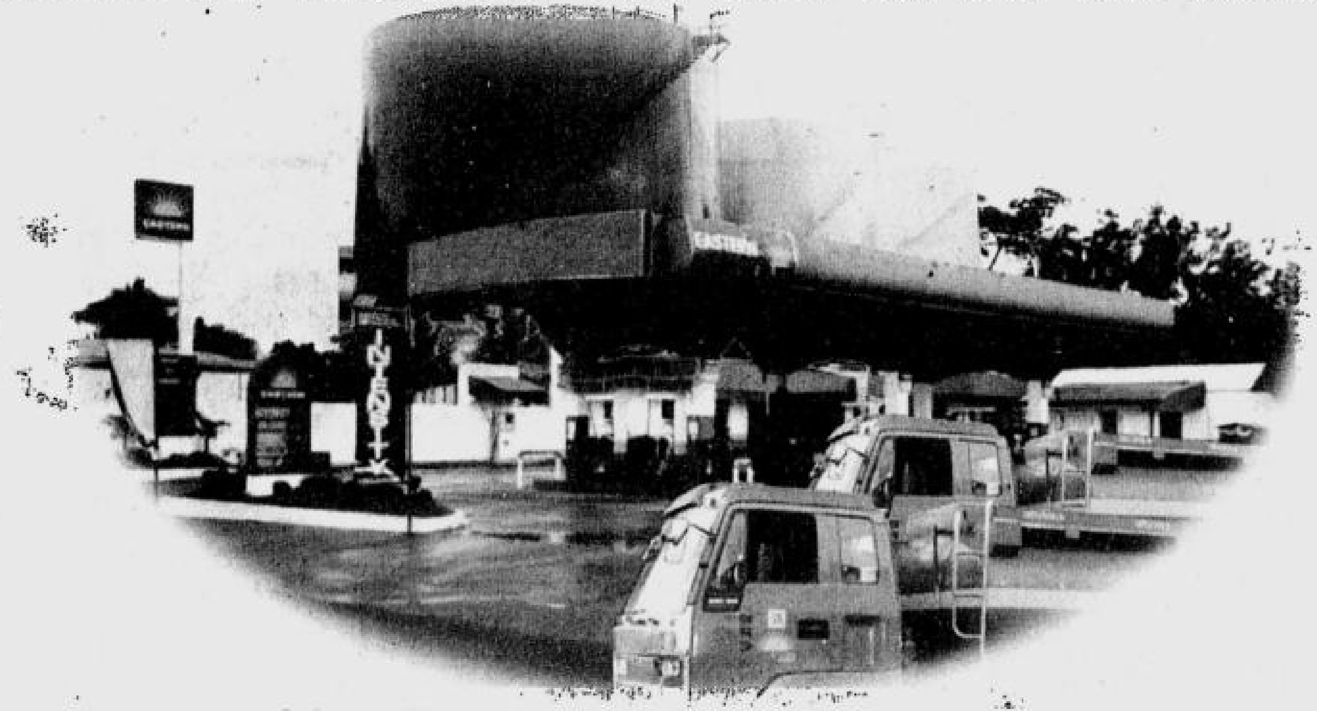
Makabago. Makabayan. Maasahan. That's your Eastern GasolinahangBayan. The new generation Energy Station continues to power up the masses and surges ahead to fill up the entire nation. Soon, more energy stations will come your way to deliver superior petroleum products and to provide the best services every Filipino deserves.

BRIGHTER PERSPECTIVES.

A new player in the major league, standing tall amidst the giants. Yes, Eastern Petroleum looks forward to new opportunities, sets beyond our targets, soars higher to exceed everybody's expectations.

And all these we do for YOU!

Five wishes for Christmas. Five aims for our 5th Anniversary.



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to All!

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EASTERN Success Stories

They believe. They seize the opportunity. They know they can make a difference. They became our partners.

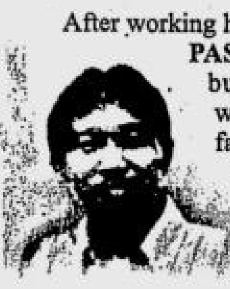
The entry of Eastern Petroleum didn't only help in revving up the oil industry and fueling the country's economy. It actually spawned new generation entrepreneurs and young blood investors. Some of them were fresh from college, some overseas contract workers who have decided to settle back in our home country. Some were businessmen who have shifted gears after seeing the vast potentials of Eastern *GasolinahangBayan,* some stakeholders who are always in the constant lookout of gold mines in the market.

Yes, they believe and they build Eastern *GasolinahangBayan.* And they have become part of our success.

Go ahead, read the success stories of some of our partners. And may this bring inspiration to you to aim high, too.

LIZA BARCIAL is our very first lady Station Manager. After graduating from college, she faced the biggest challenge of her life: to man a gasoline station. Being a woman works to her advantage. Young and aggressive, her own brand of customer service becomes her ace. Everyday you will see her pumping gasoline and personally filling up for the customers. She even takes time checking on the engine and volunteers to put water. And more than her winning charm, motorists always come back to line up at her station because of its service. Why, they even offer cold mineral water to their customers!

In the province of Quezon, a gold mine was unearthed by a young Mechanical Engineering graduate. **HECTOR BABISTA** chose to run his own business by building the first Eastern *GasolinahangBayan* in that locale. In a short period; Hector has gained much confidence and encouragement in his successful gasoline venture. With his earnings, he decided to explore other fields as well. Today, Hector has already diversified into fishing and trading while he continues to reap the rewards of having a *GasolinahangBayan* of his own.



After working hard as a Seaman, **ROGER PASAMONTE** searched for a business opportunity. He wanted to stay with his family here in the Philippines while providing them a good life. One day, an advertisement in the newspaper caught his attention. Call it gut feel, he knew the ad was the answer. The ad turned out to be Eastern Petroleum's invitation for dealership. Roger responded, applied and got what he wanted. The rest, as they say, is history.

Lastly, we feature on this couple who just 'stumbled' on Eastern Petroleum through Internet. **MR. FELIX ADUL** was idly surfing the cyberspace when he found his way to the website of Eastern Petroleum. His curiosity became an exciting discovery. He told his wife about it and they both decided to dig more about Eastern Petroleum until they both got engrossed and interested --- until they both agreed to have their own *GasolinahangBayan.* Nowadays, they still surf Internet together but their hands are full in handling one of the most outstanding Eastern Energy Stations.

Those are just four stories and we have a lot more to tell. But don't you think it's about time you became successful, too? Yes, you can also be a dealer and make a difference. And who knows, your story will inspire others to follow their dreams.

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AFTER HURDLING MILESTONES

Analysts still upbeat on Wall St. prospects

NEW YORK—Analysts remained upbeat on the prospects for further Wall Street gains even after a spectacular 10-week run that pushed the Dow Jones industrials back above 10,000 for the first time in three months.

The Dow closed Friday with a 2-percent gain for the week at 10,049.46 while the Nasdaq jumped 4.7 percent, breaching another key barrier of 2,000 to end at 2,021.26.

The broader Standard and Poor's 500 gained 1.66 percent for the week to end at 1,158.31.

"The major averages may be running into resistance following substantial gains the past 10 weeks," said Alfred Goldman of AG Edwards.

"Since Sept. 21, the Dow is up over 20 percent, and the Nasdaq is up more than 40 percent."

Still, Goldman said the pullbacks in the market had been modest, suggesting that "money wants in the stock market, no matter what market gurus may say."

"This stock market has handled profit-taking very well. What is the market saying now rather than what analysts are saying? It says the upside potential over the next four to six weeks is greater than the downside risk," Goldman added.

Ralph Acampora of Prudential Securities, in a similar observation, was "encouraged by the ability of the market to continue to consolidate gains as it trends higher."

"Its ability to absorb short-term profit taking and then resume its upward momentum is indeed impressive to us, particularly on the heels of double-digit gains," Acampora said in a note to clients.

Wall Street was able to digest the 331,000 fall in payrolls and the jump in the overall unemployment rate to 5.7 percent Friday with only modest losses, as the labor market was seen as a lagging indicator of the overall economy.

Westfalia Investments chief strategist Peter Cardillo said other data were showing the US economy was stabilizing and stocks were discounting a recovery in the first half of next year.

Wall Street was encouraged by a modest rise in the University of Michigan consumer confidence index as well as a report earlier in the week by the National Association of Purchasing Management suggesting a recovery in the service sector after a long slump.

Market watchers were also expecting more help for the economy with another interest rate cut by the Federal Open Market Committee, widely expected to reduce key rates by a quarter-point Tuesday.

"We have data that point to a recovery next year, but the labor market numbers still look quite soft and the Fed is quite sensitive to that," said Henry Willmore, senior US economist at Barclays Capital in New York.

The bond market also showed a strong reaction to a likely recovery, as the yield on the 10-year Treasury bond jumped to 5.157 percent from 4.738 percent a week earlier and on the 30-year bond to 5.601 percent from 5.267 percent. A rise in yields reflects a drop in bond prices.

Analysts said investors took profits on a strong yearlong performance in Treasuries amid rising hopes for an economic recovery.

"A lot of people are now focusing on future conditions instead of the current recessionary conditions," said Josh Stiles, a senior bond strategist at IDEAGlobal.com.

Among active shares, Enron rallied with a 188-percent gain from a week earlier to 75 cents—still a far cry from $80-plus before its collapse.

Enron's former merger partner, Dynegy, eased 0.23 percent to 30.28.

The tech sector showed some of the strongest gains for the week, with Cisco up 3.52 percent to 21.16, Lucent Technologies 10.52 percent to 8.09, Micron Technologies 16.90 percent to 31.75 and AMD 31.64 percent to 17.85.

The oil sector rallied despite concerns whether production cuts would be implemented. ExxonMobil added 1.79 percent to 38.07 and ChevronTexaco rose 2.61 percent to 87.23. *AFP*

States insist Microsoft should unbundle its operating system

WASHINGTON—States pursuing the antitrust case against Microsoft asked Friday that the software giant be forced to "unbundle" the Windows operating system to curb its monopoly power, a proposal the company called "extreme."

In a brief filed in a US District Court here, nine US states, along with the District of Columbia, said the company should be required to offer a simplified version of Windows—without its Explorer browser or multimedia software "bundled" into the operating system.

The proposal also calls for the court to appoint a "special master" to ensure Microsoft complies with any ruling and for the company to appoint an internal "compliance officer."

The proposal would require Microsoft to divulge the "source code," or technical information, in its now-dominant Internet Explorer browser to enable competitors to develop other applications around it.

It would require that "the browser be open, that any company be able to use the browser without charge," said Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller, who coordinated the case for the states.

Microsoft, found guilty last year of abusing its operating system monopoly, signed a deal with the US Justice Department last month that restricted some business practices in exchange for an end to the case.

But half of the states involved in the case said the deal was too soft on Microsoft and decided to continue litigation.

Microsoft called the latest proposal filed with Federal Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly "extreme" and inappropriate in light of the appellate court decision earlier this year and claimed last month's settlement was the fairest compromise.

"The proposed remedies submitted today by the nine holdout states are extreme and not commensurate with what is left of the case," the company said in a statement.

"The court of appeals decision drastically narrowed the liability issues and provides the best road map as we move forward with these remedy proceedings."

Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut attorney general, insisted Friday's proposal patched "gaps and loopholes" in the settlement offered last month.

"This remedy's request offers a powerful compelling blueprint for restoring competition and for stopping Microsoft's misuse of its monopoly power," Blumenthal told reporters in a conference call.

In Friday's brief, the states said Microsoft crushed competitors that made other software, such as browsers, by "commingling" its own software into the Windows system.

"To prevent further unlawful commingling of Internet Explorer with the Windows operating system and to prevent similar anti-competitive commingling of other rival middleware (such as multimedia viewing and/or listening software or electronic mail software), Microsoft must be required either to cease such commingling or to offer its operating system software on an unbundled basis," the brief said.

Microsoft has long contended it should not be limited in its ability to develop software, insisting "bundling" software in the operating system made it more efficient.

Although last year's settlement also bars Microsoft from retaliating against competitors, the states said their proposal had more teeth by naming a court-appointed master with broad power to enforce it—unlike a "technical committee" in the federal government settlement.

The new proposal also would require Microsoft to include support for the Java platform created by Microsoft rival Sun Microsystems, as the system "does not provide the competitive threat today that it posed prior to Microsoft's campaign of anti-competitive conduct."

The nine states involved in the case are California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Utah and West Virginia.

A US appeals court in June upheld a lower court finding that Microsoft acted as an illegal monopoly but overturned an order the company should be broken up. *AFP*

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Edna Amog Malan** was extrajudicially settled to **Felicitas F. Amog** per doc #310 Page 29 Book II Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Consuelo A. Bocar of Zambales. PDI--Nov. 26,Dec.3&10,2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased REMEDIOS V. TIMOG covered by PESO SAVINGS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (ESP Acct.# 2361-0432-89 LAND BANK OF THE PHIL. Lagro, Quezon City) has been the subject of EXTRA -JUDUCIAL PARTITION as per Doc.# 2161; Page# 432; Bk# III , Series of 2001 executed before Notary Public Atty. Jaime A. Mario, Jr. of Makati City.
(PDI Dec. 10, 17 & 24, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that NO KA OI PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL, INC. Stock Certificate Nos. 005 & 006 issued in the name of MARCELINO M. LAZARO, JR. has been reported lost per Affidavit of Loss dated 25 October, 2001. After the expiration of one year from the last publication date of this notice, if no contest has been presented to NO KA OI PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL, INC. the right to make such contest shall be barred and the corporation shall cancel in its books certificate of stock nos. 005 & 006 which has been reported lost and issue in lieu thereof, new certificates of stock.
PDI-Dec.3, 10 & 17, 2001

PERSONAL

Thank you Holy spirit, for your blessings.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites prospective bidders to apply for prequalification/ eligibility for the Replacement of Fixed Theater Seats - PICC Plenary Hall. Scope of Work includes furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, services and other incidentals required to perform : (a) dismantling of existing fixed theater seats and hauling to the designated storage; (b) preparation of a complete seating plans; (c) complete installation of new theater seats; and (d) all items necessary to complete the work.

Minimum requirement to prequalify to bid for said project are as follows:

1.0 Local supplier should be a seating contractor for the past 10 years (reckoned from October 1991) specializing in the manufacture, assembly and distribution of seating furniture for commercial installations/ systems furniture.

2.0 Local supplier should have supplied and installed locally at least a total of 1,500 theater seats with at least 900 seats installed in one project.

3.0 The contractor should have a net contracting capacity of at least a total of P35.5 Million computed as follows : NFCC = (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all Outstanding works under on-going contracts including awarded contract yet to be started.

4.0 Must submit a notarized certificate of satisfactory performance (for the 2 biggest theater seats projects) signed by the client's and design consultant's authorized signatories. In case of in-house design, the approved signatories shall be the designer and the Head of the design/infrastructure department of approved equal. Certification form can be obtained from the AHCPP Secretariat. The Bank reserves the right to validate such certification and shall automatically disqualify any bidder who falsify data on these documents or issue fake certifications.

5.0 Must be able to submit a demo unit and accomplish the Prequalification Statements/ Documents to be issued by the AHCPP Secretariat.

6.0 In case where the local supplier is a distributor of the theater seats, the local supplier should have had for the past 2-1/2 years (reckoned from January 1999) a distributorship/dealership contract with the foreign supplier/manufacturer of the theater seats to be used for the project. The said contract should not expire before December 2003; otherwise, the local supplier should submit a notarized affidavit attesting that the contract shall be extended to a minimum of at least 1 year after the project has been completed and accepted by BSP/PICC. Submit a dated certification from the principal attesting these requirements.

7.0 The manufacturer of the theater seats should be ISO 9000 certified.

8.0 Articles of Incorporation and Business Permit.

9.0 Y2000 audited Financial Statement (Balance Sheet and Income Statement) with Y2000 Income Tax Return

Prequalification Statements/Documents may be obtained from AHCPP Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Date and time of issuance of is on Dec. 07 to 11, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn. Cost of form is two hundred pesos per set (P200/set). Deadline for submission of Prequalification Documents is on Decembert 26, 2001.

Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility shall be issued on January 10, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn at the AHCPP Secretariat together with the issuance of Bid/Tender Documents to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents (P2,000.00/set).

For inquiries, please call AHCPP Secretariat at tel. No. 524-7011 local 3143.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 262 Series of 2000 and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to prequalification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/ indemnify the contractor for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Vicente B. Valdepeñas Jr.
Chairman

(Sgd.) Juan Quintos Jr.
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(PDI--Dec. 7 & 10, 2001)

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The BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE shall furnish Bid Forms to interested parties starting December 10, 2001. The bidders are advised to investigate, inspect and verify the above-mentioned vehicle to ascertain for themselves the status of the same and its actual condition before participating in the bidding. Sealed bid proposal(s)/offer(s) shall be received by the COMMITTEE starting 8:00 AM but not later than 3:00 p.m. on December 26, 2001. The offer should be addressed to:

DR. ZALDY O. ABAINZA
CSCD, Inc.
Riosa Street, Tabaco City

CSCDI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the company.

For inquiries, please call Ronald Buella at Telephone Number (052) 487-5337 or 830-0028 or visit CSCDI, Tabaco Office at Riosa Street, Tabaco City.

(Sgd.) ZALDY O. ABAINZA, Ed. D.
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(PDI -- Dec. 10, 2001)

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FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 92
City of Calamba

Remigio A. Ching
Petitioner,

- versus -

SEC CASE NO. 26-2001-C

ELMER A. CHING, ET. AL.
Respondents.
x-------------------------x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

Now, therefore, you, LEONCIO A. CHING, now permanently and presently residing 9447 Lemona Avenue, North Hills, California 91343, USA is hereby enjoined to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, City of Calamba, your answer to the complaint within ninety (90) days from the date of the last publication thereof, furnishing a copy thereof to the complainant, Remigio A. Ching. If you fail to file your answer to the complaint within the period herein stated complainant shall demand from the court the relief prayed for in the complaint.

Let this service of summons by publication be published at the expense of the plaintiff in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Let also copy of the summons together with a copy of the complaint and the order of October 4, 2001, be deposited, postage prepaid and sent by registered mail to the defendant's last known address at the expense of the plaintiff.

WITNESS the HON. ANTONIO S. POZAS, Presiding Judge, of this Court, this 4th day of October 2001.

(Sgd.) TEOFILA C. DE VERA
Officer-in-charge

(PDI -- Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of CELEBES COCONUT CORPORATION with address at Banza, Butuan City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Producer of Desiccated Coconut at a capacity of 7,857 MTPY and with proposed plant site at Banza, Butuan City has been officially accepted on September 12, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) CHITA O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI -- Dec. 10, 2001)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT

NOTICE OF INTERMENT

DR. JOSE VER MADAMBA

(Retired Physician at Veterans Memorial Medical Center)
of Dingras, Ilocos Norte & Cubao, Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 1, 2001 at the age of 94.

Interment shall be at Dingras Municipal Cemetery on December 13, 2001 after the 8:00 AM Mass at St. Joseph Parish Church.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

LOURDES LASERNA VDA. DE REYNALDO

(1910 - 2001)

Died 07 December 2001 at the age of 91.

Survived by her sister **Jovita**; children **Ferrelou, Marvilou, Loucent, Toto**; and son-in-law **Rellie**; grandchildren **Gina, Greg, Marie & Maxnell, Liiei & John, Edward & Tessie, Rollie & Shiela, Jeremiah & Jong-mah, Jeff & Jon**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Chapel O, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 15 December 2001 at Manila North Cemetery after the 1:00 PM Mass.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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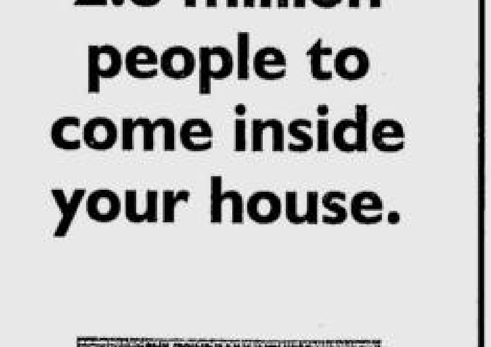

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SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

NOTIFICATION OF INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

Date: December 6, 2001
Contract No. PH-P215

The Government of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has received an ODA Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under a Special Yen Loan Package in the amount of 16,450 Million Yen towards the cost of Subic Bay Port Development Project (the proposed Project), and intends to apply the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for the proposed Project.

SBMA intends to prequalify Contractors to bid under JBIC's procedures for International Competitive Bidding for the proposed Project which comprises:

(a) A New Container Terminal at Cubi Point (including a 2-berth container wharf and terminal, access roads, dredging, minor buildings, site utilities and navigation aids);
(b) Rehabilitation of Existing Piers and Wharves (including backup areas and dredging);
(c) Equipment Procurement and Installation (quay gantry cranes, pollution control vessel and speed boats).

Prequalification is open only to Japanese firms and voluntarily formed Japanese joint ventures meeting the specific requirements prescribed in the Invitation for Prequalification, a copy of which may be obtained from:

The Chairman
Bid and Award Committee
Attention: PMO-FAPO
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Parties wishing to receive a copy of the Invitation for Prequalification are required to present their request in writing on their company's letterhead to the above address.

The Prequalification Documents will be available from **11th December 2001** for a fee of Pesos 5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos), and the duly completed application must be submitted before 17:00 hours on **31st January 2002.**

SBMA reserves the right to cancel the proposed Project at any time before award of a contract and shall not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by applicants in connection with the preparation and submission of prequalification documents for the proposed Project.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CHITO M. CRUZ**
Chairman, PBAC
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Dec. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) LOT AFP FIXED COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (FCS)**, with an approved budget of **Three Hundred Three Million Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (Php 303,360,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **December 10, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php 30,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check payable to the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **December 19, 2001 at 2:00 PM (local time)** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bidders shall be allowed to inspect the existing AFP Communication System and Installations upon purchase of bid documents on a designated schedule as determined by the BAC.

Deadline for submission of Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **January 22, 2002 at 9:00 AM (local time)** and followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 AM** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L. ABAYA**
Major General, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- Dec. 10 & 11, 2001)

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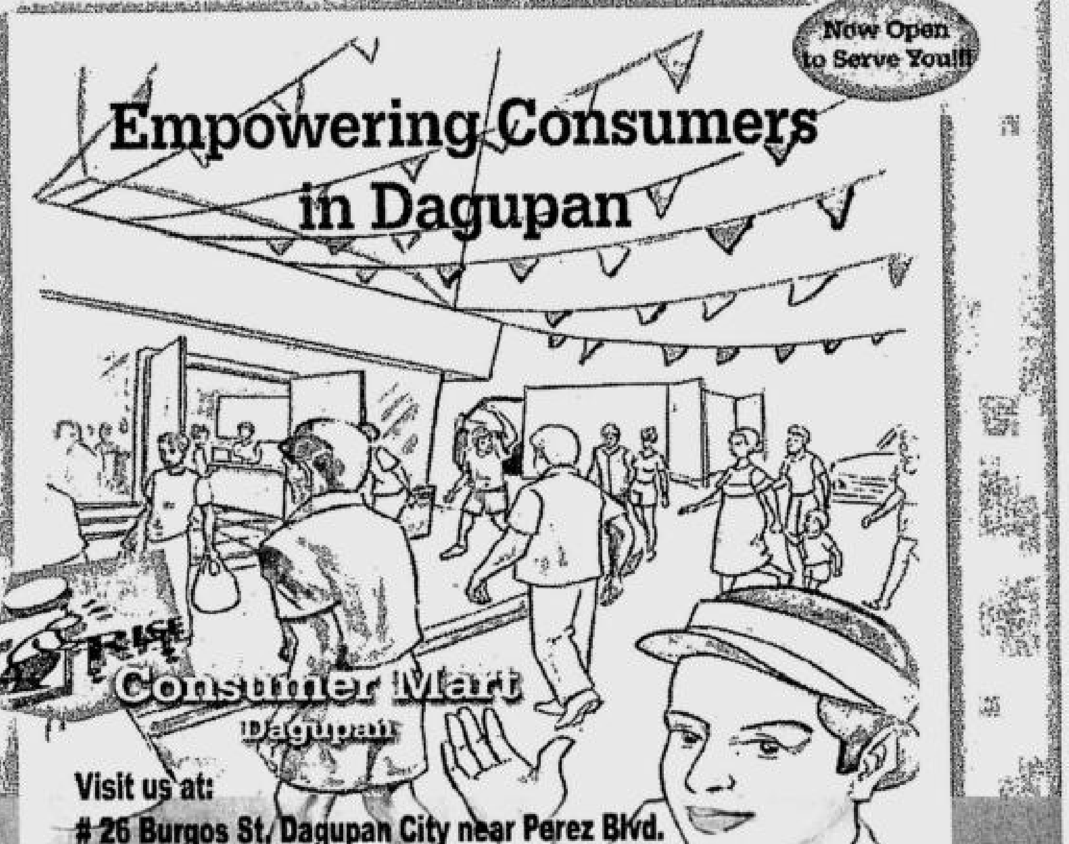

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ADVISORY

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For the remaining days of December 2001 up to January 15, 2002, the new office location of the Information Technology Group will be at Unit 1709, 17th/F Jollibee Plaza, Ortigas, while the whole 8th Floor/Penthouse of Noah's Arch Building, Escolta, Binondo will be occupied by the NCR operations and the office of the RISE Finance and Management Corporation. We will be busy with installation and adjustment activities.

We, therefore, be for your indulgence and kind understanding for all the inconveniences you may encounter during the said period.

Rest assured that we are doing all these with the subscribers' and consumers' best interest in mind. All obligations will be fulfilled in due time. As we continuously affirm our commitment to you, we assure you that our operation is backed up by our voluntary trust fund mechanism initially placed, with the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and soon, with other banks.

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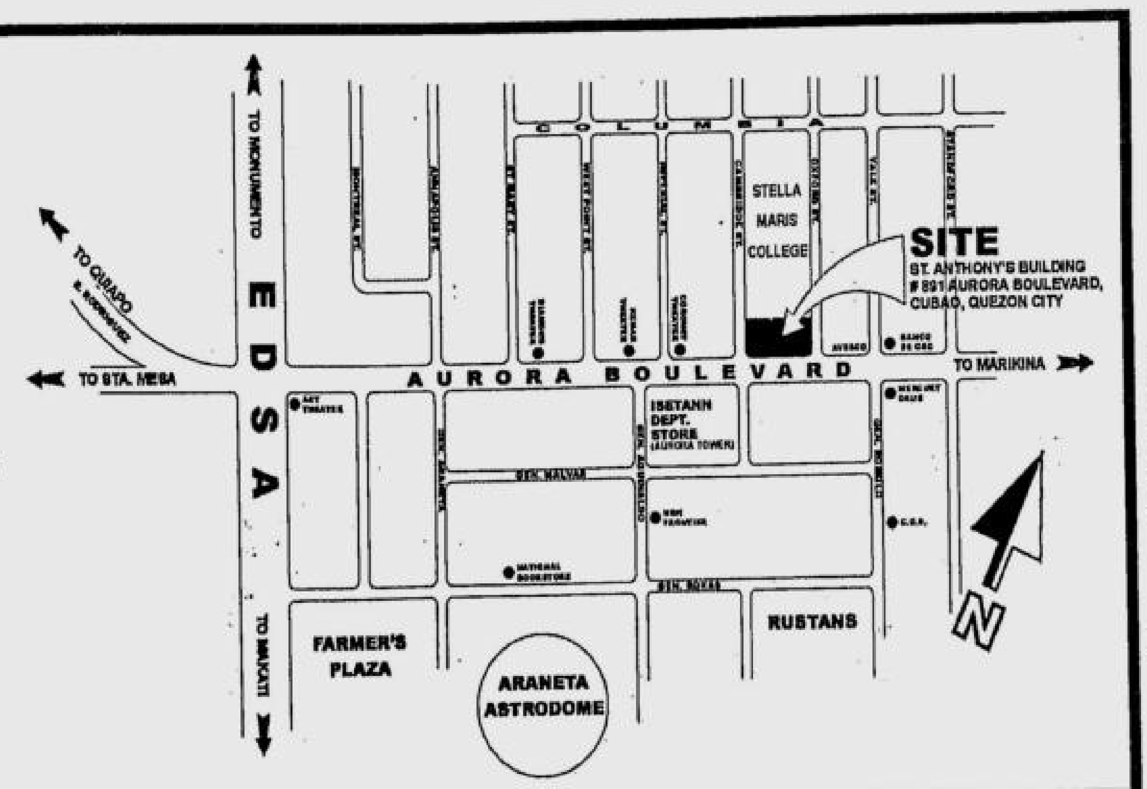

Foundation deals blow to HP-Compaq plan

WEBB McKinney of Hewlett-Packard Co. delivers a speech at the Business Week Digital Economy Conference in San Francisco. McKinney, who is leading the deal for HP's $25-billion acquisition of Compaq, says the merger is essential for the company's future. AP

SAN FRANCISCO—A foundation that is the biggest shareholder in Hewlett-Packard on Friday dealt a severe blow to the high-technology giant's plans to merge with computer maker Compaq.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, after a closed-door meeting, said it "preliminarily determined" to vote its HP shares against the multibillion-dollar deal.

The foundation created by family members of the company's founders owned approximately 10.4 percent of HP stock, said foundation spokesperson John Walker.

Susan Packard Orr, chair of the foundation and daughter of founder Packard, said despite an understanding by the board of trustees of the "strategic considerations," the board decided "the best interests of the Foundation would be better served by Hewlett-Packard not proceeding with the proposed transaction."

HP and Compaq responded with a statement, saying the two companies were "disappointed" in the foundation's move to fight the merger.

"Nevertheless, our responsibility to shareowners, customers and employees requires that we maintain a pragmatic view of the business and a focus on the future," said the two companies. "Over the coming weeks and months, we intend to continue communicating its merits to our broad shareowner base."

Hewlett heir Walter Hewlett praised the Packard foundation's decision.

"I am pleased that after completing its analysis, the Packard Foundation has preliminarily decided to vote its shares against the proposed merger of Hewlett-Packard and Compaq," he said in a statement. "Hewlett-Packard can create greater value for stockholders as a stand-alone company than as a company combined with Compaq."

Added Hewlett: "I believe there is a sizable and widespread opposition to this transaction."

Hewlett said he would launch a shareholders revolt should HP decide to take the matter up with investors directly.

"I intend to solicit proxies against the transaction," Hewlett vowed should HP decide to appeal to its general shareholders for an approval of the merger.

A proxy is when shareholders give others the right to vote on their behalf. Proxy fights, involving a campaign of warring corporate factions for the hearts and minds of shareholders, can be a withering nightmare for both a company and its investors.

The $25-billion stock swap deal, announced in September, would make HP second only to IBM in the computer industry.

Being the largest single shareholder in HP, the Packard family will now be a formidable obstacle to the troubled deal. *AFP*

China arrests 100 in massive tax fraud case

BEIJING—More than 100 people have been arrested nationwide in one of China's largest ever tax fraud scams, state media reported Saturday.

The 20-billion-yuan ($2.4-billion) scam, which involved false value-added tax receipts sold to business that used them to falsify accounts, was blown open by a disgruntled gang member who thought he had been cheated of his share of the ill-gotten gains.

According to the China Daily, chief suspect Chen Xuejun illegally obtained the receipts from an employee who worked at a state-tax bureau in Beijing.

Chen and his accomplices are believed to have pulled in billions of yuan within 16 months of selling the receipts.

Chen and the tax bureau employee were arrested by Beijing police, China Daily said.

The employee, an ordinary state-tax worker, used his loot to buy a new car, the report added.

The case is believed to be the biggest VAT forgery case since China began to reform its tax system in 1994.

It has exposed problems in the management of grass-roots tax departments, indicating slack supervision and inefficient management, the report said.

Chinese tax revenues grew by 21.2 percent in the first 10 months from the same period last year, according to the State Administration of Taxation.

State media attributed the increase so far this year to improved tax collection and to the country's "sustained, healthy economic growth" and "better public awareness of the duty to pay taxes."

Businesses, however, often avoid taxes by issuing their own type of receipt to customers, rather than the VAT receipts. *AFP*

Alcatel brings in new partner to data services

SHANGHAI—WiderThan.com and Alcatel SA have signed a memorandum of understanding to bring WiderThan.com as a new partner to AI Lab, Alcatel's comprehensive end-to-end infrastructure for advanced mobile data services located in Shanghai, China.

The Alcatel Advanced Infrastructure (AI) Lab will also connect to Intrinsic Technology's nG Labsm in Shanghai.

Together with its partners, Alcatel's AI Lab provides a live, multi-infrastructure home for the development of attractive mobile data services. The laboratory creates a crucial real-time environment for testing data service technologies for 2G, 2.5G and, soon, 3G platforms. WiderThan.com brings advanced knowledge from Korea, where it has been directly involved in the development of the mobile data infrastructure and services in that market.

"We are thrilled to join Alcatel's AI Lab as a founding platform partner," said JinWoo So, president and chief executive of WiderThan.com. "We believe that the concept of this open laboratory and the strength of all the founding partners will quickly propel AI Lab to a leadership position, capable of attracting the best content developers and aggregators in the region."

"We are excited about working with Alcatel as our partner in nG Labsm, and we believe that the opportunity to bring WiderThan.com into the fold adds value to our goal of stimulating China's advanced wireless market," Intrinsic chief executive Jun Wu said. "The growth of the wireless industry depends on the adoption of vivacious products and services, and these products will be most successful if all the components of the industry work together. In this way, we can catalyze China to be the world's leading wireless market."

Ron Spithill, president of Alcatel Asia-Pacific, said, "We are excited to see the Lab tap into the regional knowledge pool. The addition of WiderThan.com to the confirmed platform partners brings sophisticated products and some very smart people from one of the most advanced mobile markets in the world to work with us in Shanghai. Together with our expanding list of AI Lab partners, we will achieve our vision of providing operators with a single place to go when they want to look for integrated mobile data solutions."

The Shanghai Advanced Infrastructure Lab and the cooperation with WiderThan.com and Intrinsic Technology comes within the scope of Alcatel's global strategy of implementation of live multi-infrastructure platforms for the development of attractive 2G, 2.5G and 3G mobile data applications and services, including the one already installed in France and the integration platform located in Evolium SAS Japan.

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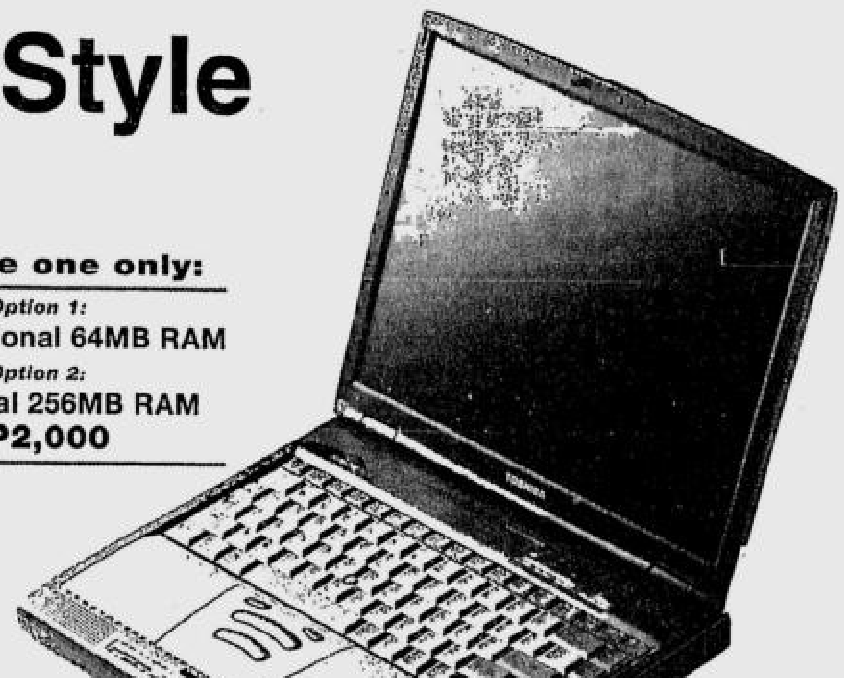

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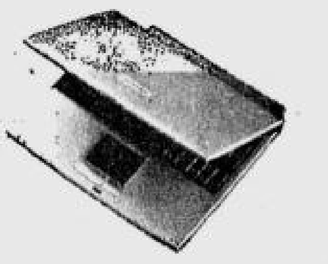

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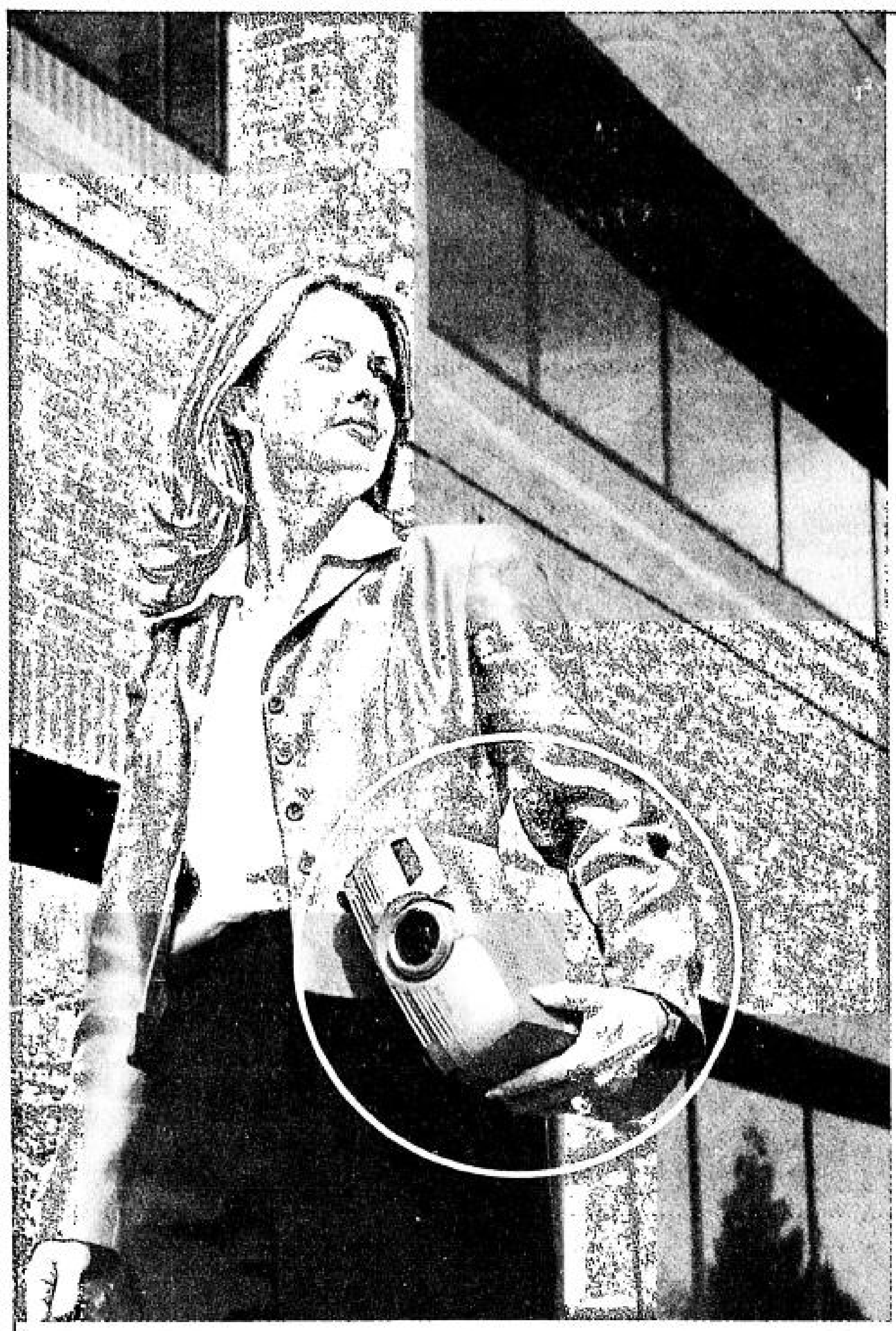

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China to create 50 globally competitive state-owned firms

BEIJING—China will nurture up to 50 giant state-owned enterprises into internationally competitive companies within four years to increase the competitiveness of Chinese industry after its entry to the World Trade Organization, state media said Saturday.

Vice Premier Wu Bangguo made the announcement at a national conference on economic and trade Friday, China Daily said.

He did not, however, detail the enterprises to be targeted.

Wu said China had already fostered a tribe of state-owned firms that were able to compete with their overseas counterparts.

"In sectors such as metallurgy, petrochemical and telecommunications, we have our giant companies," Wu said.

The government will encourage these companies to seek capital in overseas stock markets, which will help them improve corporate governance.

The government's measures are in line with economic trend, according to an economic think-tank.

The number of international companies soared from 7,267 in 1968 to approximately 60,000 in 1998, China Daily said.

Statistics showed more than two-thirds of world trade volume has been earned by international companies.

WTO rules allow China to provide some small-scale subsidy for specific industries to help enterprises shake off losses.

The government can also allocate money to support infrastructure construction, industrial restructuring, education and scientific research in the less-developed western regions.

China is due to officially join the WTO on Dec. 11.

AFP

Ericsson reports positive cash flow, increases market share

ERICSSON AG posted a 17-percent GSM year-to-date sales increase as of the third quarter of the year, underscoring its leadership in 2G and 3G mobile systems.

"With a 17-percent sales growth so far this year, we have once again outpaced all competitors in GSM systems and, at the same time, demonstrated fast progress in adapting our organizations and costs to the difficult market conditions," Kurt Hellstrom, Ericsson president and chief executive, said.

Ericsson also regained strength in mobile phones with the launch of new phones, including five GPRS models. Among these state-of-the-art phones are the T39 and T68 units.

Another significant achievement of Ericsson in the third quarter is the launch of Sony-Ericsson Mobile Communications on Oct. 1.

The joint venture saw the transfer of 2,700 employees from Ericsson and the launch of a new mobile phone brand.

Ericsson's "Engine" Solution also continued to develop favorably with seven new agreements during the quarter.

Engine is Ericsson's solution for operators wanting to convert existing circuit-switched networks into multiservice networks or build entirely new networks.

The company's "efficiency program" has also been highly effective.

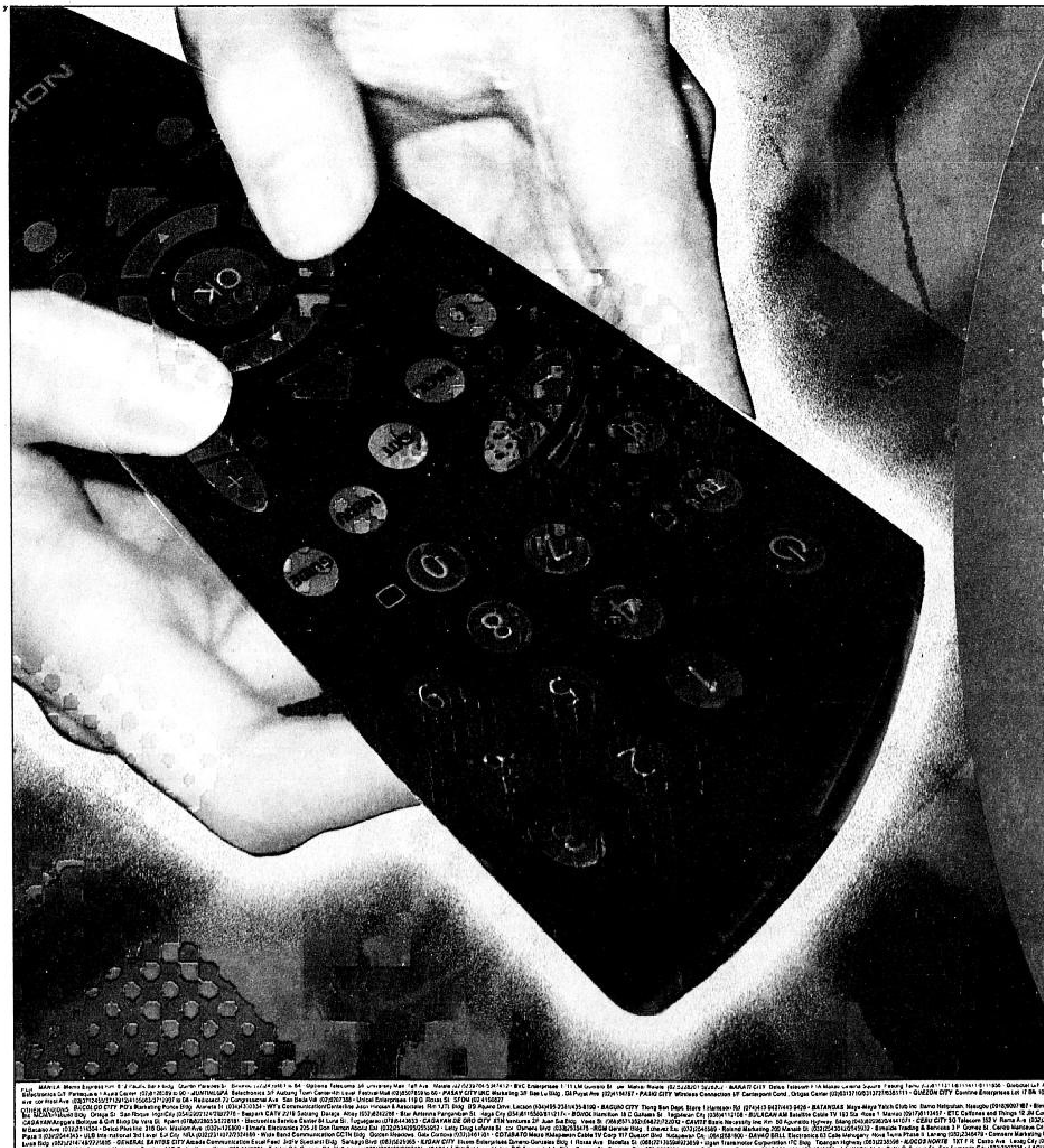
The program significantly right-sized employee numbers by 6,800.

Under the same program, a new streamlined organization was also created, with fewer market units, concentrated research and development supply units, fewer management layers and a chief operating officer function.

Ericsson also scored a big win in terms of cash flow.

The telecommunication firm's cash flow before financing activities was also positive in the third quarter. Receivables were reduced due to lower sales. Inventory was reduced through turnover.

"In these changing times, our customers rely more than ever on our ability to deliver better solutions faster. With our dedicated people, strong cash position, premier customer base and technological lead, I am confident that we will deliver on our customers' expectations better than any competitor," Hellstrom said.



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SMC/TCCC, RFM CLOSE COSMOS DEAL

Executives of San Miguel Corp., The Coca-Cola Co. (TCCC) and RFM Corp. seal a definitive sale and purchase agreement to effect the joint acquisition by SMC subsidiary Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and TCCC of RFM's approximately 83-percent stake in Cosmos Bottling Corp. Wrapping up the P14-billion deal are (from left) SMC chair and CEO Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr.; James G. Harting, president of the Philippine Division of TCCC, and Jose Concepcion III, RFM president and CEO.

3 brokerage houses to resume operations

By Elena R. Torrijos

AT least three foreign brokerage firms have decided to resume operations with the prospect of having to increase their capital to P100 million when the stock market recovers to sustainable levels, SEC brokerages and exchanges department director Jose Aquino said Friday.

Nomura Securities, Keppel Philippines Securities and Magnum International Securities, all of which applied for voluntary suspension earlier, have decided to renew their licenses. SG Securities, which has been rumored to be in the process of winding down its operations, has also applied for renewal of its registration.

The SEC recently approved a resolution that disallowed the renewal of the licenses of brokerage houses that have voluntarily suspended or ceased their operations.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said these brokers would have to reapply for licenses subject to the new SEC rules requiring, among others, a minimum capital of P100 million for new brokers.

However, upon the request of several brokers, the SEC decided to extend the deadline for renewal applications in order to give these brokers more time to decide whether to operate or not next year.

Existing licensed brokers are required to maintain a net capital of P5 million. They have to file transaction reports and maintain at least one salesperson and one associate in their employ.

Given the high capital requirement on new entrants, maintaining a skeletal force while waiting for the country's stock market to recover seems a more practical alternative for brokers instead of shutting down operations and coming back at a better time.

This year saw several foreign brokerage houses pull out of the country. They blamed poor market conditions arising from political and economic reasons, and not the Securities Regulations Code that was enacted last year, for their decision to suspend local operations.

In particular, foreign brokers said they had decided to suspend or cease their trading operations in the country because of the failure of the stock market to generate a critical volume that is necessary for them to break even.

Documents showed that out of the country's 184 stockbrokers, 8 were inactive, 23 were under voluntary suspension and 4 have ceased operations. This list, however, does not include HSBC Securities, Worldsec Securities, G.K. Goh Securities and Guoco Securities that said they would cease operations.

CIIF Oil Mills posted record profit in Oct.

CIIF Oil Mills, an affiliate of UCPB, announced that its earnings from operations as of end-October have reached a high of P700 million, topping the previous company record of P420 million earned for the full year of 2000.

CIIF Oil Mills and UCPB chair and CEP Jeronimo U. Kilayko said the company's operating income during the first 10 months of 2001 was even higher than the full-year earnings of the company in the past years. He said the record earnings came on the back of higher export revenues.

Bucking the downward trend in Philippine exports, the CIIF Oil Mills shipped 691,000 metric tons of coconut oil and other coconut by-products to the US and European markets between January and October, up by 78 percent from 389,000 metric tons during the same period last year. The increase in shipment volume brought up the company's export revenues to $135 million from $112 million a year ago.

The CIIF Oil mills also posted higher domestic sales volume despite the sluggish economic conditions. Sales to the domestic market, consisting mainly of edible oil, increased to 137,000 metric tons from 101,000 metric tons. However, sales value declined to P1.5 billion compared with P2.2 billion a year ago, due to lower selling prices of coconut products.

Following two consecutive years of record earnings, the CIIF Oil Mills is now in a financial position to pay off its liabilities on schedule including the P1.2-billion balance of the loan that it secured to purchase of stocks in San Miguel Corp. (SMC). The loan matures in 2003. The CIIF Oil Mills' shareholdings represent 29 percent of SMC's total outstanding shares of stocks.

Kilayko attributed the CIIF Oil Mills' strong earnings performance to better oil milling efficiency, higher capacity utilization resulting from the increase in Philippine copra production and better trading management.

According to Jaime Santos, who oversees the day-to-day business of the CIIF Oil Mills, the company achieved better than the 98-percent standard coconut oil extraction rate in its oil milling operations as a result of the retooling done at the company's oil mills. The CIIF Oil Mills operates five oil mills in various parts of the country, namely San Pablo Manufacturing Corp., Legaspi Oil Co., Granexport Manufacturing Corp., Cagayan de Oro Oil Co., and Southern Luzon Coconut Oil Mills. It also owns in a joint venture with Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan the Minola Refining Corp., which manufactures Minola, the leading domestic edible oil brand.

San Miguel still looking for new acquisition targets

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER five major corporate takeovers in the last two years, food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is still thirsting for new acquisitions to strengthen its regional foothold.

SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco told reporters Friday that while the conglomerate would still concentrate on food and beverage business, its strategy was to be on the lookout for new opportunities.

"With globalization, we have to grow bigger and to establish stronger regional presence to enable us to compete with all the big multinational companies coming in," Cojuangco said.

Cojuangco, however, admitted that the cost of SMC's recent acquisitions have started to weigh down on SMC's earnings this year. The company is expecting to start reaping the benefits from these acquisitions by next year.

Cojuangco said income this year would be lower but for next year, growth in earnings would be higher than 20 percent.

In the third quarter of the year, SMC's net profit dropped by 36 percent from last year's P1.57 billion due to consolidation costs.

Prior to SMC's expansion binge starting last year, the conglomerate had around $1 billion in cash hoard. Stock market analysts estimated that the war chest has been halved after five major acquisitions.

The SMC group bought powdered juice and jelly snack manufacturer Sugarland Foods Inc. for P2.9 billion and a controlling stake in Australian premier brewer J Boag & Sons for about $55 million.

Also, SMC regained control of Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. through about $1 billion worth of cash and share-swap deal with Coca Cola Amatil Ltd. of Australia. It later gobbled up major rival in the food business Pure Foods Corp. from the Ayala group for P7 billion and Cosmos Bottling from the RFM group.

Cojuangco said that since the acquisitions reduced SMC's cash hoard, income from interest earnings has also gone down. Some integration expenses, such as servicing the debt of the acquired company, also weighed down on its earnings.

Based on earlier company estimates, earnings for the first nine months could have been P5.3 billion, a 6 percent year-on-year increase, had it not acquired Pure Foods.

Recently, SMC forged a deal to buy Cosmos Bottling Corp. for P14 billion. The value of the brands accounted for around 60 percent of the total purchase price, which will be paid by Atlanta-based Coca Cola Co.

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Summit to ratify socio-economic pact

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MULTISECTORAL economic summit led by Malacañang will convene today to ratify a socio-economic pact that will attempt to address major concerns in the country—including issues on corporate restructuring, smuggling and kidnappings—through measures that can be implemented in the next six months.

The pact aims to prevent a severe downturn in the Philippine economy that could lead to employment loss and exacerbation of poverty in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"The measures that will be identified in the summit will ensure that the growth we've seen in the first nine months of the year (3.1 percent gross domestic product growth) will gather strength next year," Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said.

The summit's technical working panel led by the National Economic and Development Authority earlier shortlisted the priority programs that would be supported by executive and legislative measures. The measures were already presented to the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council in a pre-summit meeting in Malacañang Thursday last week.

Among the priorities in the business sector that will be discussed are the setting up of asset management companies (AMCs) to help address the rising bad loans of the banking system and the passage of a new bankruptcy law to speed up corporate restructuring in the country.On efforts to set up AMCs, Canlas said measures would be drafted to make sure that foreigners would be able to participate in the restructuring through certain flexibility in the foreign ownership of real estate.

"The idea that is emerging is that when the banks transfer to a foreign investor, it's not a final sale but a lease contract. Once forging a deal that is when the ownership issue gets settled," he said.

New PSE chief gets more time

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has decided to give newly elected Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung time to settle in and study the PSE's operations before pressing him to submit a business plan.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said in an interview that she met with Leung on Wednesday and asked him if he could already submit the draft of the PSE's business plan.

"He asked that, on the business plan, he be able to take a look at it first, so, in effect, our deadline will be deferred to give him time," Bautista told reporters. "He said he wanted to assume on Jan. 1 because he still has to study the issues, and, anyway, the holidays are here already."

Bautista said she gave Leung a copy of the Securities Regulation Code to study and a laundry list of pending requirements that the stock exchange had yet to meet.

A strong supporter of Leung for the PSE post, Bautista said, "I think he will be able to put management in shape because part of the problem was there was no one really following up things."

With Leung at the helm, Bautista said the stock exchange might also start buckling down to work on offering its shares to institutional investors through a listing.

The SEC has given the PSE a year to ensure that no single industry will own more than 20 percent of its shares or voting rights as stated in the Securities Regulation Code.

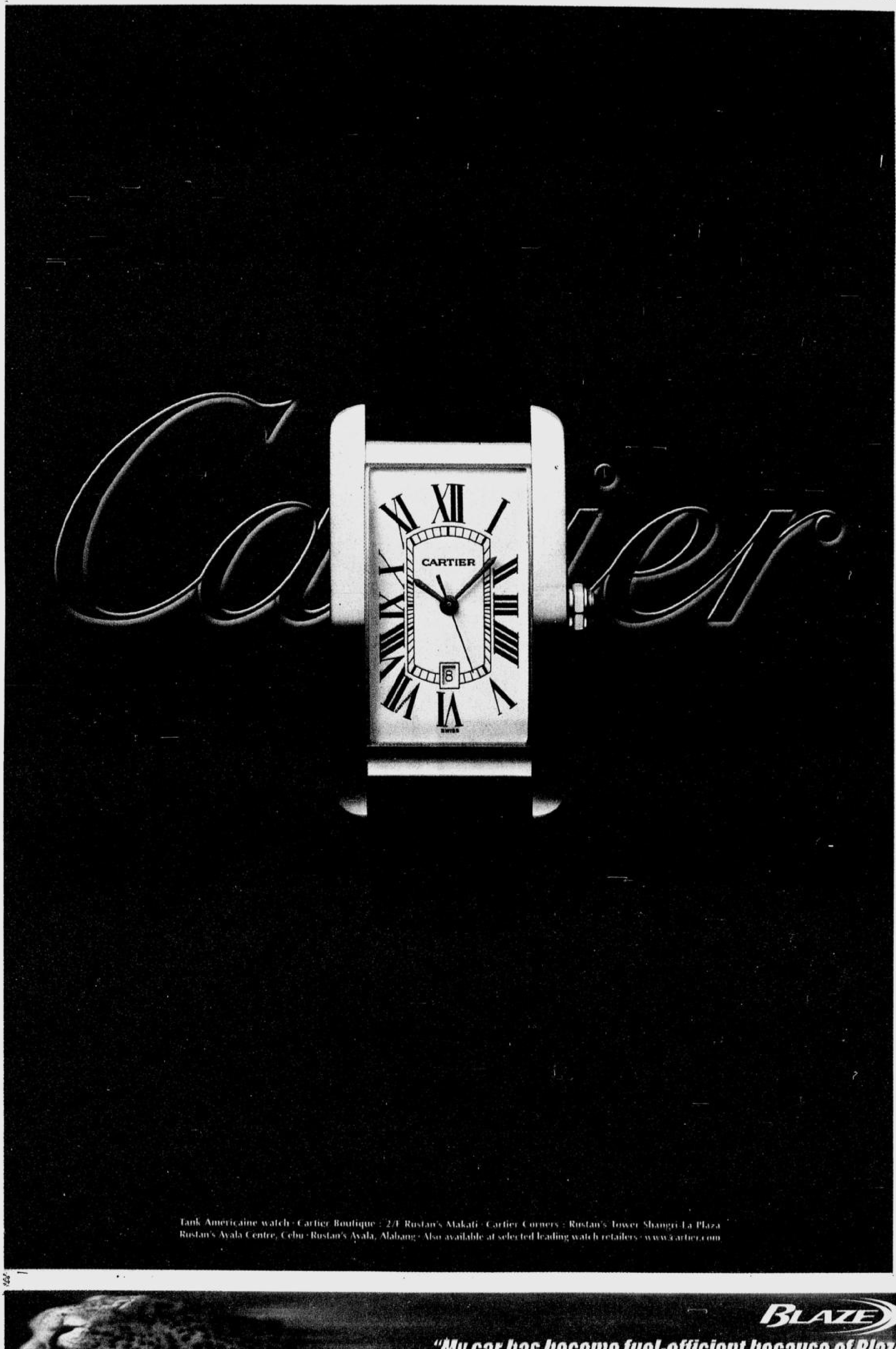
Leung used to be finance undersecretary and president of state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Until recently, he was chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines, a government bank.

Bautista also suggested that Leung look into how the shares of PSE could be offered through the help of financial institutions.

PSE Chair Felipe Yap said earlier the stock exchange might offer its shares to institutional investors through a public offering, but Bautista said Yap changed his mind when informed of the larger taxes involved.

Elena R. Torrijos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Does globalization help fight poverty?

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

THE SHORT answer to this question is: "Yes, but . . ." It is good for growth yet makes some sectors quite vulnerable.

My source is a talk given by professor Malcolm Dowling at a conference on globalization held in Manila last Nov. 15-17, 2001 organized by the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats.

Dowling is from the University of Melbourne and the Asian Development Bank. His lecture reviewed much hard evidence and was entitled, "Is Globalization Really Good for the World Economy?"

Engine of growth

Here are the arguments for globalization.

- Globalization has stimulated trade and economic growth.

There is overwhelming evidence that trade fuels world growth, and three periods in history attest to this. During the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, international trade boomed. And so did growth.

The same pattern was seen in the years after World War II: much trade and much growth. The opposite was true in the period between World War I and World War II. Trade trickled, and so did growth.

Take the case of Ghana and South Korea. In 1967, Ghana's per capita income of $800 per year was greater than the corresponding $550 of Korea. Then Ghana chose to be protectionist, but South Korea liberalized trade. Just 30 years later, Ghana's per capita income had fallen to $370 while that of South Korea hit $10,360.

"A recent World Bank study showed that developing countries that opened themselves up to globalization had a growth rate in per capita income that was 3-1/2 times faster than the growth rate in per capita income for countries that did not globalize," said Dowling.

- Globalization has accelerated the adoption of new technology.

When foreign companies and products flow in, nations get exposed to modern technology. Cars, television sets, computers, VCRs and electronic devices all came from the industrialized countries. Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore have rushed through high growth due to their adoption of hi-tech industries.

- Globalization has modernized business practices by exposing local firms to foreign competition.

Competition upgrades the quality of products; it eases out the lousy and rewards the excellent. This holds true for firms as well. Facing competitors from abroad, domestic firms have to upgrade their performance.

Globalization breaks monopolies that habitually offer less and charge more.

- Globalization lessens poverty by stimulating growth and creating jobs.

Multinationals come in and create jobs. "While they pay much lower wages than they do in developed countries, they are still paying more than other employers in developing countries," says Dowling.

There is also an overwhelming proof that high growth lowers the incidence of poverty.

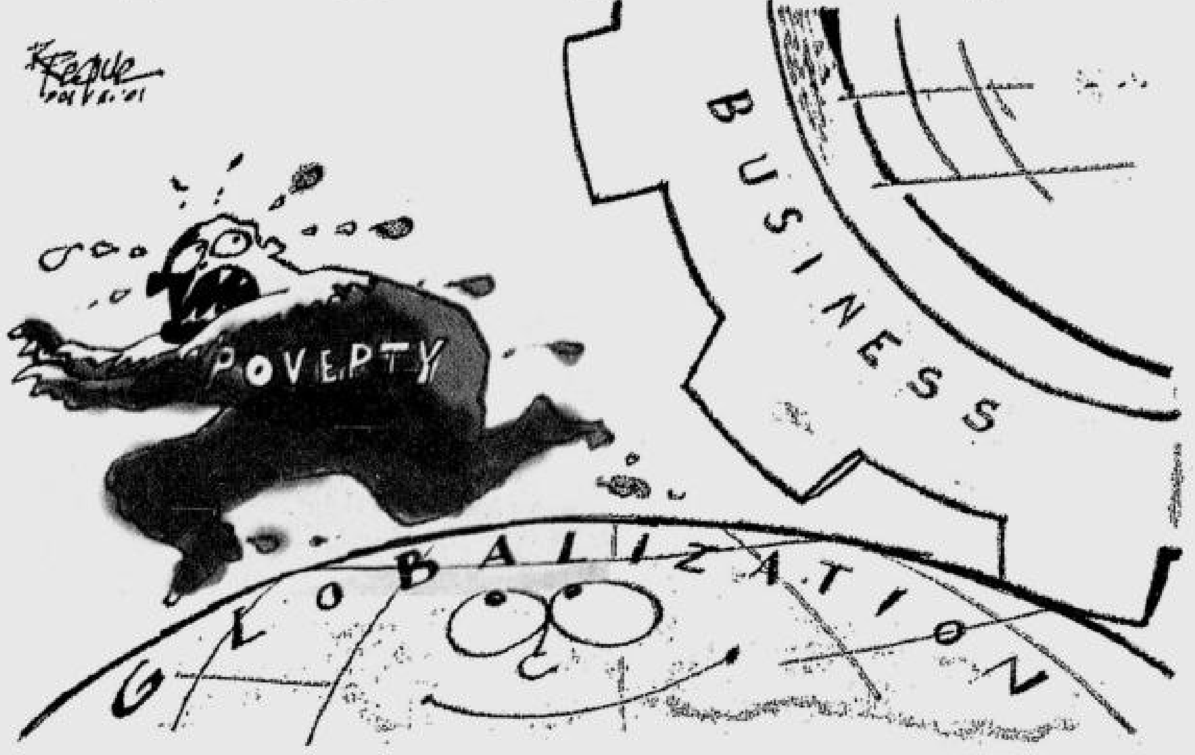
"There is no question that poverty has fallen where growth has been higher," adds Dowling. "The evidence here is overwhelming." He presents charts that show that high growth results in "quite dramatic" drops in poverty.

Many become vulnerable

And yet globalization also slams many others. Here are some of the criticisms.

- Globalization has encouraged a sweatshop mentality, where foreign firms pay relatively lower wages.

Multinationals take advantage of the lower wages paid in the Third World and thus move their factories there. Particular targets are the labor-intensive industries like leather products, foot wear and garments.



The poor nations also "race to the bottom," competing with each other in offering the lowest wages. China is the low-wage leader, thus grabbing much foreign investment away from Southeast Asia.

The counter-argument is correct though: The salaries may be low for the standards of the home country, but they are high for the Third World.

"There is ample evidence that multinationals pay higher wages than domestic firms in the same industry," notes Dowling.

- Local banks have become more reckless in their borrowing.

This was seen during the Latin American and Asian crises. Local banks did not act responsibly when they competed against foreign banks. They speculated on foreign exchange and took needless risks. This yielded a huge burden of bad debts, pushing some to the brink of default. Turkey and Argentina would come to mind.

- Globalization has made economies more volatile through the effects of herd behavior.

Investors from across the planet

DOES/ C3

Developing countries miss out in trade globalization

GENEVA—Many developing countries remain marginalized from the world economy and are missing out on any significant from the globalization of trade, according to a paper prepared for the International Labour Office's Governing Body, which is conducting its 282nd session in Geneva.

The paper, which will be examined next week in the GB's "Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization," focuses on the effects of trade liberalization on employment, noting that the level and quality of employment are strongly affected by the close link between trade performance and the rate of economic growth. In this way, trade liberalization, the paper says, has a major influence on the level and structure of job creation through the changes it provokes in the rate of economic growth and the structure of production.

It highlights the need for the right national economic and social policies and institutions to be in place so as to maximize the impact of trade liberalization on employment creation, including labor market policies, social protection and social dialogue.

The paper notes that under the assumptions of standard economic theory, trade liberalization is considered as unambiguously good for developing countries—since freer trade will not only increase their efficiency and growth, but will simultaneously increase employment opportunities and wages for their most abundant resource, skilled labor.

However, it also acknowledges that the assumptions underlying this theory "rarely apply in the real world." Hence, in many circum-

DEVELOPING/ C4

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'Doing IT Smart'

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

A FEW months ago, I walked into National Bookstore in Greenhills and I saw that they had many books on sale at a big discount. I looked through the books and found a book with an interesting title, "Doing IT Smart," at P512.50. I figured it was a bargain.

Last Oct. 10 on the way to Malaysia, I read the book and I was pleasantly surprised that the book is a real gem. "Doing IT Smart" is authored by Rolf-Dieter Kempis and Jursen Ringbeck published by The Free Press. It is about a McKinsey and Co. study of 70 manufacturing firms.

The researchers studied business performance and company effectiveness and efficiency in the use of IT. Effectiveness was determined in terms of process-specific IT indicators, such as functionality, availability and utilization. Efficiency was determined by IT cost position and project management performance.

They then classified the companies into four cultures as illustrated below:

IT Stars—high benefits at low cost. Users are very IT literate. IT professionals are process-oriented.

Big Spenders—high benefits at high cost and effort. Not cost-conscious.

Cautious Spenders—very efficiency-oriented IT on tight budget. IT passive. Opportunities wasted.

IT Laggards—High IT costs but little benefit. IT has no service orientation and has poor management.

The authors have recommended seven rules for superior IT performances for manufacturing firms. Most are applicable to almost any firm or organization. The seven rules are:

1. Make IT a priority in product development.
2. Integrate IT into marketing, sales and service.
3. Use IT selectively to integrate order processing across the company.
4. Shift the focus of IT in administration to business planning and management development.
5. Make IT a top management affair.
6. Create a customer-oriented IT service network.
7. Introduce integrated standard software on a fast-follower basis—but redesign the business first.

While the seven rules make sense, what I found most useful are the findings of the study.

The study shows that IT stars invest more effort in standard software (application packages) in comparison with the laggards. Laggards on the other hand invest more effort in in-house software development (44 percent) compared with IT stars (7 percent).

I am sure that most companies and their IT departments all start wanting to make effective use of IT while keeping IT costs in control, and completing projects on time. IT laggards do a lot of in-house IT development and take much longer and spend more on their projects. As a result, they end up in the Laggards' quadrant—low effectiveness and high cost.

All cultures made use of integrated standard software, particularly SAP, but only 27 percent of the companies made it to the IT star quadrant while 49 percent, nearly half, fell to the Laggards quadrant.

What made the difference? There are three alternatives a company may take with regard to business process redesign:

1. Do it first and subsequently select and implement the software.
2. Do it concurrently with implementation of the selected software.
3. Don't do business process redesign at all.

Among IT stars, 47 percent do business process redesign first, 43 percent do it concurrently with implementation and 15 percent do not do business process redesign.

Among the Laggards, only 24 percent do it first, 32 percent do it concurrently and 44 percent do not do business process redesign at all.

Doing business process redesign first:

- Focuses on user requirements
- Leads to better software selection
- Reduces project management complexity
- Reduces project duration and cost

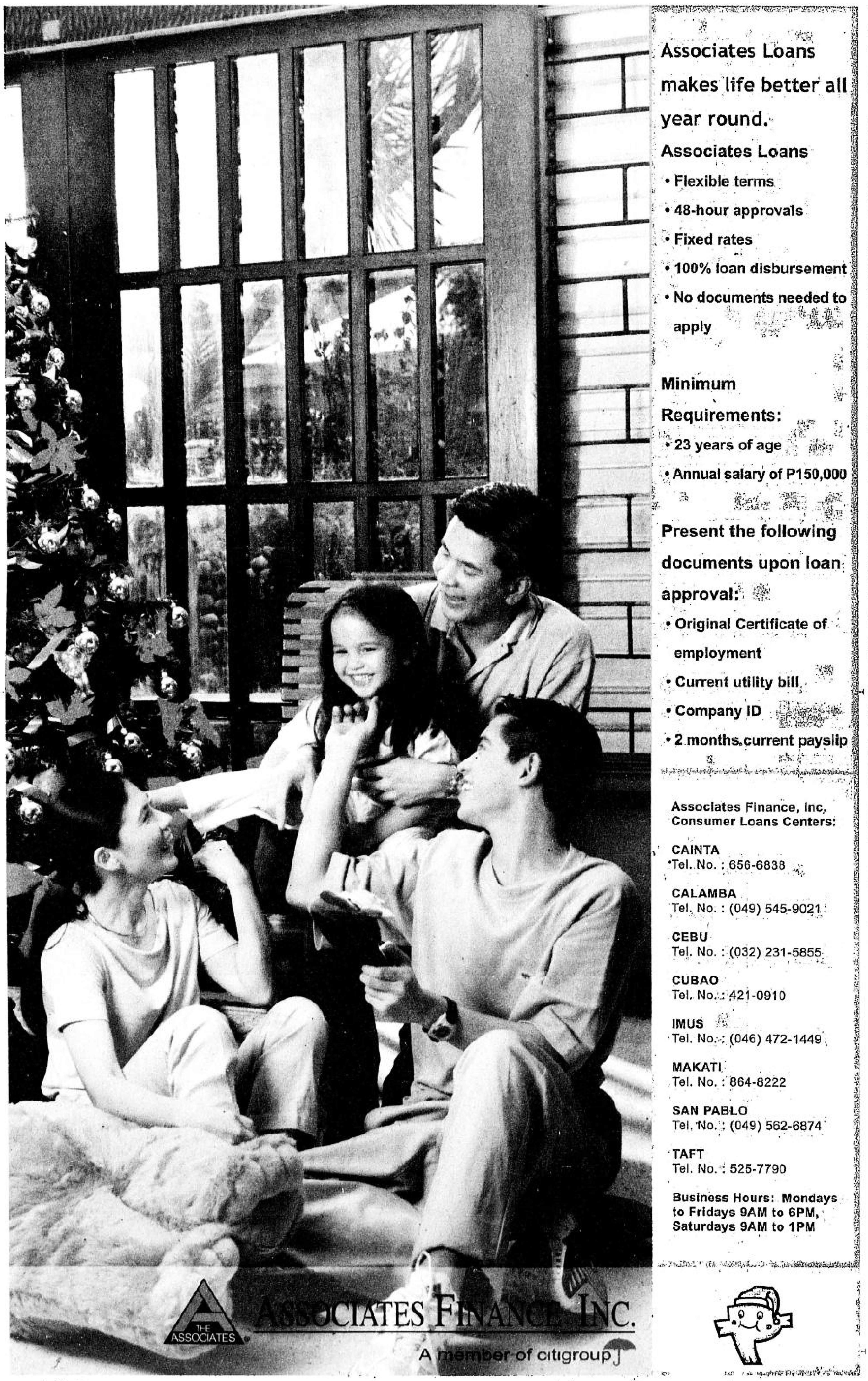
IT stars opt for a fast follower strategy in introducing integrated standard software. Surprisingly, Laggards pioneer more often, 15 percent, than IT stars, 6 percent.

The fast follower strategy has the following benefits:

- Tried and tested functionality
- Avoid problems of pioneers
- Availability of experienced consultants
- Use proven implementation methods

To increase your IT effectiveness and efficiency, it might be a good idea to emulate the IT Stars. I have made "Doing IT Smart" part of my Information and Communication Technologies for Competitive Advantage Seminars.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. and member of the board of trustees of De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph.)



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Enron worker pension losses to spur reforms

BOSTON—Tammie Huthmacher can't control her anger at the mention of the top executives of Enron Corp., where she worked as a administrator until earlier this month.

She'd managed to build up a nest egg, but the small amount she'd hoped would grow over time instead evaporated when the energy trading company collapsed into bankruptcy.

Now, with outrage growing over the $1 billion-plus loss of retirement accounts by thousands of workers like Huthmacher, regulators are looking for ways to avoid a repeat of the Enron disaster. Fueling the demand for change is a realization that, while the Tammie Huthmachers lost everything, top executives left with millions.

"They're walking away with everything and we are walking away with absolutely nothing," said the 27-year-old who worked in Houston. "They should definitely be investigated. Somebody had to have known what was going on."

Concrete proposals are already emerging for reforms, including:

- barring companies from limiting employees from selling their stock based on their age, or for administrative reasons;
- educating consumers about the risks of holding too much of a single stock;
- requiring the same or similar rules for rank-and-file employees and top executives.

Enron's 401(K) plan, which matched worker contributions with Enron stock, prevented workers from touching their stock until they reached age 54. Worse, in the weeks leading up to the company's bankruptcy filing on Sunday, it froze all retirement accounts because it changed administrators—a practice that in this case proved disastrous for employees trying to salvage their retirement savings.

Enron employees, like many Americans, were invested heavily in their own company's stock. The company promoted such stock purchases even though financial advisers routinely warn against putting too many retirement eggs in one basket.

"They really encouraged me. Enron, Enron, Enron. That's all they were about," Huthmacher said. "They wanted everybody to do the same thing. They were very pushy about it."

Enron is by no means the only US company with plan restrictions. Qwest Communications International Inc., Gillette Co. and Procter & Gamble Co. all have age-related restrictions on the sale of company stock in retirement plans.

A survey by the Employee Benefits Research Institute of nearly 12 million 401K plan participants in 35,367 plans, with $579.8 billion in assets, shows that 18.6 percent of the average plan balance is held in company stock.

The figure rises for bigger companies—more than 25 percent for those with more than 5,000 employees.

Reforms

Momentum for reform is gathering steam. The labor department, which shares regulatory oversight of retirement accounts with the treasury department, has started an investigation into Enron's handling of its employees' savings.

Massachusetts regulators this week proposed a law that would force companies in the state to allow workers to sell at any time company stock in their retirement accounts.

Even corporate lobbyists, who have fought hard in the past to stop efforts to change rules governing retirement savings, appear resigned to reform.

"We think things are going to be examined and we need to keep an open mind about that," said Janice Gregory, spokesperson for the Erisa Industry Committee, a lobbying group for firms dealing with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (Erisa), the law which set up 401K accounts.

The industry argues that company stock-buying programs have provided huge financial benefits to employees and shouldn't be eliminated.

"The first issue is not to judge a whole system based on one situation that went wrong," said David Wray of the Profit Sharing 401K Council of America. "There is evidence over the last two decades that having employees own company stock is a good thing."

In Enron's case, Wray said, only 10 percent or less of the stock was put into the accounts by Enron, while the vast majority was elected by employees themselves. Stock buying programs have been popular at many companies.

But the popularity of the programs alone doesn't justify exposing employees' retirement

ENRON/ C6

For IT exec, speed and creativity are key

By Abigail L. Ho

IN the ever-changing world of wireless technology, it is all about speed. Slowing down even just one bit could result in a company's downfall.

Which is why Chikka Holdings Ltd. chief executive Dennis Mendiola always keeps his people on their toes.

As he so aptly put it, it is better for them to make their own products obsolete than for their competitors to do so.

"We'll continue to push the technological envelope of change. Ours is a highly competitive, fast-paced industry. The future is uncertain and is being defined by us. It's what we make of the future and also what our competitors make of the future," he says.

Chikka Holdings Ltd. is a wireless application service provider for cellular businesses. It currently has deals with cellular giants Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

Its product, Chikka Txt Messenger, allows personal computer-to-mobile phone messaging and vice versa. Mendiola says they have subscribers from almost all parts of the world.

Despite the high technology and innovative nature of the product, he says they are always on the lookout for ways with which they can better their services.

"A lot of the products (we offer) have no known close counterparts. But the marketplace is global. It brings a certain level of drive. We think big, set high standards. This is what drives our organization forward," he says.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Chikka instituted a program dubbed "in the frontline of change."

Mendiola explains that this practically removes each of the employees' staff functions.

MANAGEMENT
STYLES

"Each individual operates as a business unit with his own budget, time and attention span for details and new products," he says.

With this new program, each employee would be accountable for his action. He says accountability is one of the principles he would like to ingrain in each of his team members.

"The management team makes everyone in the team a frontliner. You fend for yourself as you fend for your team. You should have supreme accountability for results. Numbers are important," he says.

Mendiola adds that, although each employee would be encouraged to function as an individual business unit, the new program could also teach the employees teamwork and adaptability in the long run.

"Being a young company, we don't have the curse of having a fixed management style or an established culture of doing things," he says.

Chikka is a "young company" in more ways than one. It has been in the business for only a few years, and the average age of its employees is around 26 years old.

"I'm one of the oldest here," Mendiola says with a smile.

The thirty-something chief executive looks young and boyish enough to pass for someone in his mid-20s, but his experience goes way beyond his age.

He has worked for Bankers Trust in Singapore, Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, McKinsey and Co. in New York and as the right hand man of then Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Richard Gordon.

Mendiola says working for big companies in the past has taught him to be more creative with his management style. As he always says, smaller companies like his has to make do with "limited resources and potential competitors," so creativity as well as speed are of the essence.

He adds that small organizations call for a different atmosphere, especially businesses in fast-paced industries.

"There's an agility and flexibility that speed gives us. This includes the ability to get out of markets if it gets crowded. We seize opportunity. This is what I call our opportunistic style," he says.

Mendiola is very much focused on his goals, both as a person and as a leader. He admits that he does not get to do anything else but work, but he says this is fine with him as long as the business does well.

"It's like we're in the middle of a war and a mission. We're focused zealots. Nothing else matters other than the goal," he says.

He adds that Chikka is an "amphibious force" that tackles all obstacles that come its way with zeal and determination.

But Mendiola says this would not be the case forever as they would eventually "morph into a more relaxed organization, but not for the next couple of years."

He adds that his dream job is to have his people go to him to report what they have already accomplished without having to be told what to do.

MENDIOLA

"We've destroyed the company's culture of stratification, orderliness, and job descriptions. Our engine of growth is driven by people in their mid-20s. It's empowerment on a higher level," he says.

Mendiola says he does not tolerate disrespect and underhanded tactics in the organization, so transparency is also one of his key management principles.

Another trait not tolerated in his company is mediocrity.

"If you set mediocre goals, your organization is bound to be mediocre," he says.

Mendiola says "ambition excites people to move forward." And there is no place in the wireless world for mediocre goals.

Does globalization help fight poverty?

(From page C1)

invest in shares in the local stock markets, and these are immense flows. These portfolio investments boosted the local markets when the mood was sunny. But when rain fell, it really poured in Asia.

Like a vast herd, the investors fled Asian stock markets, toppling them in quick succession—and this brought down entire national economies.

Grow, but protect the vulnerable

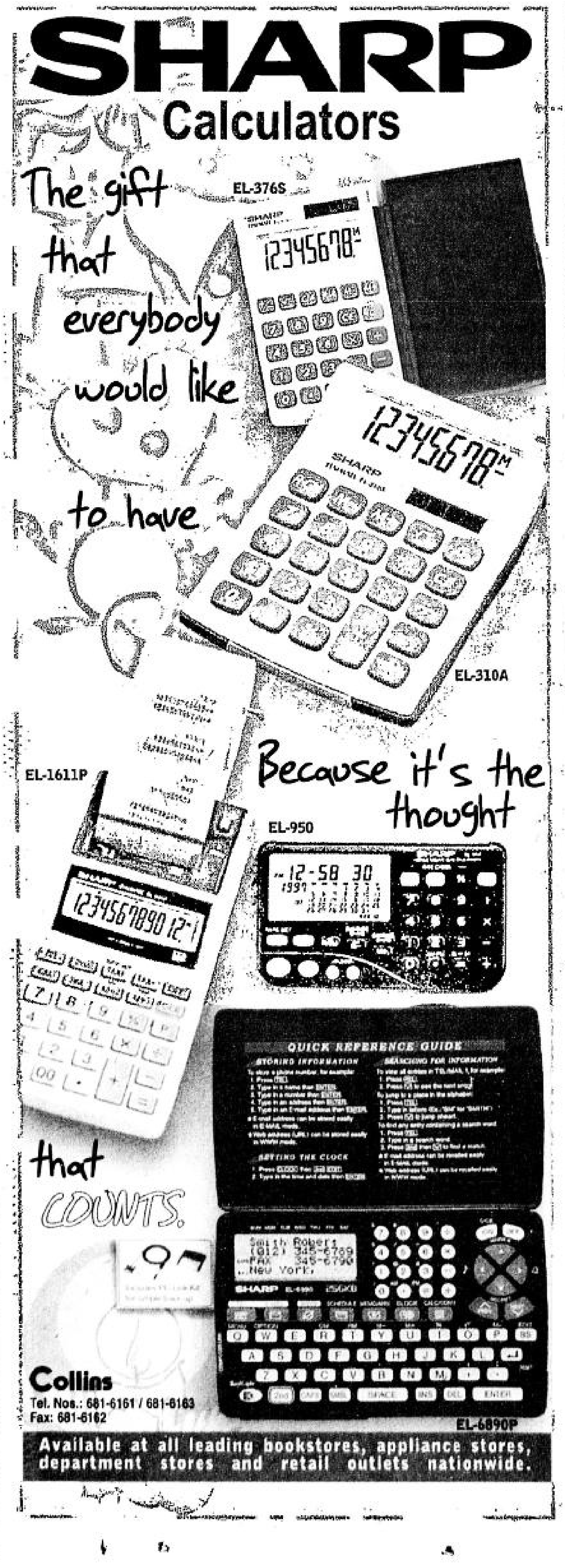
All told, globalization really does promote growth and lowers poverty in areas of high growth. It really does introduce new technology, the basis for recent economic growth. It really breaks monopolies, stimulates competition and brings in better business practices.

It really creates jobs and raises wages for those employed in multinationals.

However, globalization has also unleashed havoc on the financial sector.

Because of the erratic swings of portfolio investors, many of them banks, entire economies have been squeezed. This is a harsh lesson from the Asian crisis.

To fight poverty, nations should thus harness the opportunities of globalization. But they must also address the problem of vulnerability, particularly that caused by the volatile financial sector.



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4. Sa pagkuha ng instant na premyo, kailangang i-surrender ang scratch card portion sa Station Officer-in-Charge para ma-validate.

5. Ang lahat ng instant scratch-card prizes ay dapat ma-claim bago mag-March 31, 2002. Ang premyong hindi na-claim sa durasyon na ito ay maituturing na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI.

6. Ang mga nanalong game cards na may winning combination at authenticated security codes lamang ang puwedeng manalo. Hindi dapat tanggalin ng customer ang latex sa "VOID IF SCRATCHED" panel. Ang alinmang game card na maituturing na nasira, pinakialaman, gaya, binago sa anumang paraan, o may di malinaw na security code ay agad na ituturing na null and void.

PANG-HANAPBUHAY RAFFLE PAPREMYO:

7. Gupitin ang portion ng raffle entry para makasali sa raffle draw. Sa raffle portion ng game card ay dapat isulat ng customer ang kanyang pangalan, address, telepono at lagdaan at ihulog sa designated drop box sa participating outlet o di kaya ilagay sa legal sized white envelope at ipadala ang inyong entries sa:
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c/o Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office
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San Juan, Metro Manila

8. Ang deadline ng pag-submit ng entries ay sa January 31, 2002 hanggang 8 o' clock ng gabi.

9. Ang raffle ay gagawin sa February 8, 2002, sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, G/F Meridien Building, #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, in the presence of a DTI representative, para sa mga sumusunod na prizes:
First Prize - 1 Toyota Revo DLX Diesel 2000 MODEL (excluding all registration requirements)
Second Prizes - 3 Kawasaki HD-125CC Motorcycles (excluding all registration requirements) para sa 3 winners
Third Prizes - 5 Internet Highway-Ready PC's Complete set w/ monitor, cpu, cd rom and modem, para sa 5 winners
Consolation Prizes - 10 Mobile Phones (Nokia 3310, units only) para sa 10 winners

10. Ang mananalo ng lahat ng raffle prizes ay padadalhan ng registered mail. Sa pag-claim ng premyo, kailangang mag-prisenta ng kahit na anong valid ID (company o school ID, passport, o driver's license), at kailangan ding ipakita ang natanggap na registered mail.

11. Ang lahat ng raffle prizes ay transferable ngunit hindi sila convertible to cash. Seaoil Petroleum Corp. ang magbabayad 20% tax sa lahat ng premyong higit sa P 10,000.

12. Ang isang customer ay puwede lamang manalo ng isang beses. Kung nabunot nang dalawang beses ang kanyang pangalan, makukuha niya lamang ang isang premyong may mas malaking halaga, at mag-du-draw uli para sa ikalawang premyo.

13. Ang lahat ng napanalunang premyo sa draw ay puwedeng ma-claim sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, G/F Meridien Building, #20 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila mula 9:00 a.m. hanggang 6:00 p.m. Lunes hanggang Biyernes.

14. Kapag hindi na-claim ang iyong premyo sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa araw ng notification, ang premyo ay ituturing na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI.

15. Ang lahat ng raffle draw winners ay dapat sumang-ayon na makunan o di kaya magbigay ng litrato para sa ilalathalang announcement-of-winners print ad ng Seaoil.

16. Ang lahat ng empleyado ng Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, mga sister companies nito, Masterminds Asia Communications, mga suppliers ng Seaoil, at mga Seaoil dealers, at ang kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang sa second degree of affinity or consanguinity ay diskuwalipikado sa pagsali sa scratch at raffle promong ito. [B]

SEAOIL
Kabalikat Mo Sa Hanapbuhay

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.3454 SERIES OF 2001

Research shows shoppers will look for sales this year

NEW YORK—Despite forecasts of gloom, holiday shoppers are planning to spend the same amount as they did last year, according to new Accenture research.

Shoppers hope to spend their holiday dollars on sale items, and most will turn to physical stores as their first choice of shopping venue.

The largest percentage of respondents, 44 percent, said their holiday spending would be the same as last year, predicting a total spend of between $200 and $499.

Almost one-half (45 percent) said that sale items would be "very influential" in their purchasing decisions. In fact, 43 percent said that, due to the economic downturn, they would look for more sales and promotions.

Clearly, this holiday season will be highly promotional, said Angela Selden, managing partner, Accenture North American Retail industry group.

Retailers who can attract customers with compelling promotions and convert that traffic into sales with appealing merchandise and in-store offers are poised to win.

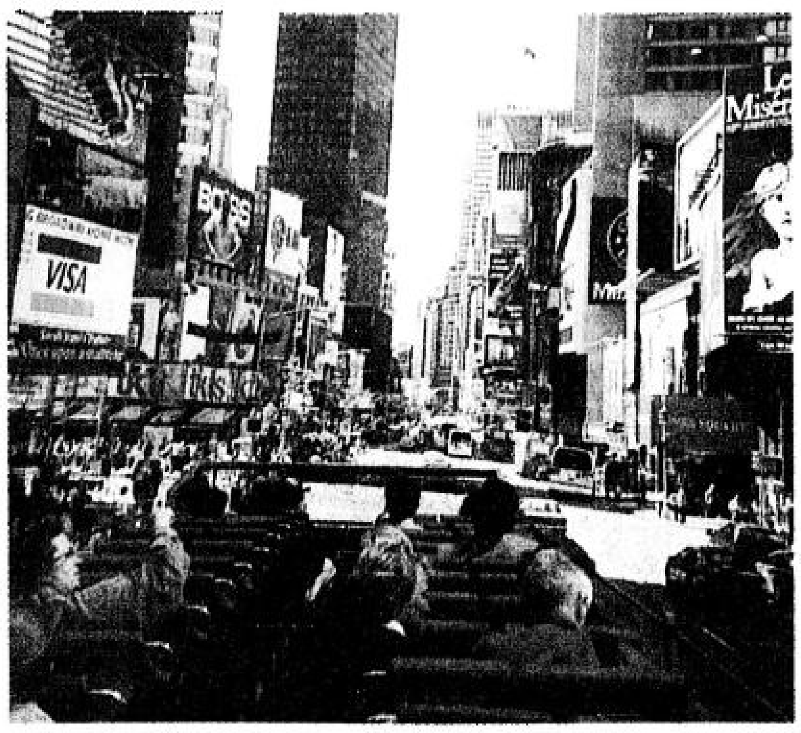
Given a heightened fear of terrorism, it was somewhat surprising the physical store was by far the most popular shopping venue, with 83 percent of all respondents citing it as their first choice. The Internet was a distant second, with 11 percent of respondents reporting it would be their first choice for shopping.

Forty-three percent of respondents reported that they do not plan to shop more on the Internet than they did last year. Of those, 67 percent stated it is because they prefer physical stores.

Almost one-quarter (23 percent) of respondents said that they do expect to shop more on the Internet than they did last year. Of those, 63 percent cited the convenience of online shopping, 15 percent said they find more sales and promotions online, and 11 percent enjoyed the ability to make purchases online and have items shipped directly to friends and family.

Thirty-three percent of respondents planned to shop online the same amount as last year.

For all shoppers, clothing proved to be the most sought after gift item. More than three-quarters (76 percent) said they plan to purchase clothing from a physical store, 45 percent plan to purchase clothing from a catalog and 21 percent intend to do so through the Internet.



LIFE goes on for American shoppers.

Overall, consumers will continue to spend money during the holiday season, but there is likely to be a significant shift in where those dollars are spent, concluded Selden.

The savvy retailers will capture those dollars by using information and analytics to quickly respond with pricing, presentation and advertising changes that capitalize on what early trends are telling them.

(This research was conducted online from Oct. 22, 2001, to Oct. 30, 2001. A total of 1,436 US consumers who planned to shop during the coming holiday season completed full surveys.)

Developing countries miss out in trade globalization

(From page C1)

stances, "in contrast to the comfortable predictions of smooth and costless adjustment in standard theory, trade liberalization can impose heavy adjustment costs in the form of a contraction in output, high unemployment and wide trade deficits."

A series of recent ILO case studies on China, India, Malaysia, Mexico and Brazil shows that in the three Asian nations "trade growth had a generally favorable effect on employment and wages" in the manufacturing industries, but these effects were not evident in the Latin American countries.

The paper refers to ILO research showing that "international trade is associated with greater labor market turnover—with particularly detrimental consequences for workers with only modestly transferable skills." Case studies of seven countries (Bangladesh, Chile, South Korea, Mauritius, Poland, South Africa and Switzerland) did not show uniform results on the impact of trade liberalization on income inequality.

The marginalization of many developing countries, the paper finds, is reflected in the fact that increased manufacturing exports were concentrated in just 13 countries and regions. The economies of Argentina, Brazil, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Taiwan (China) and Thailand saw their share of world manufactured exports rise from 9 percent in 1980 to 22 percent by the mid-1990s.

Declining exports

Another 10 developing countries—Bangladesh, Egypt, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Turkey—also experienced an increase in their share of world manufactured exports, but by a smaller margin.

In contrast, the rest of the developing world (excluding the oil exporting countries in the Middle East) "saw their collective share of world merchandize trade decline from 4 percent during 1980-82 to 3 percent in 1996-98."

At the same time, trade in primary commodities, a major component of developing-country exports, shrank as a percentage of international trade from 43 percent in 1980 to less than 20 percent in 2000 due to lower consumption resulting from technical progress and the continued development of synthetic substitutes for many raw materials.

This combination of factors has left many developing countries—particularly the least developed countries—"unable to benefit because they have been unable to shift their export base away from primary commodities to exploit the rapidly growing demand for manufactured exports," the report says. In addition "many failed to develop the physical infrastructure and the skills base necessary for the development of manufacturing."

The ILO paper underscores the importance of addressing the plight of these countries and correcting the current trajectory of the global economy—which is leading to growing inequalities between advanced and developing nations. The ILO firmly rejects trade protectionism as a solution to the problems of poverty and unemployment and argues that "an open, multilateral trading system is clearly preferable to a world economy with limited trading links."

Protectionism

"The gains from trade are undeniable as are the costs of protectionism, so the issue is not so much whether countries should try to benefit from freer trade, but how this should be achieved," the paper says. "Progress in liberalizing trade in agriculture will be particularly important and further liberalization of trade barriers on labor intensive manufactured products will also be helpful," it adds.

The ILO insists that there is no "blanket prescription of 'big-bang' trade liberalization that is applicable to all countries." Based on a broad survey of economic literature, the paper concludes that "the impact of trade liberalization is not uniform, but on the contrary, is strongly influenced by factors such as the nature of the liberalization program, the extent of pre-existing distortions in the trade regime and the flexibility of markets."

Trade liberalization has had varying results in developing countries.

"In Zimbabwe, drastic trade liberalization measures implemented in the early 1990s resulted in a contraction of output and employment that was accompanied by a sharp increase in imports and a rising trade deficit. Real wages also fell in the wake of trade liberalization."

In contrast, Mauritius has far more favorable outcomes from trade liberalization: "The reduction in protection for local firms that was implemented in the period 1985-87 led to the expected rise in employment in export industries but no contraction in employment in import-competing industries."

The East Asian experience of export-led industrialization is cited as one that "epitomizes the virtues of trade liberalization . . . these countries did not undertake a 'big bang' trade liberalization but moved toward a more neutral trade regime through selective export-promotion strategies," the paper says.

A study on Mexico found that in the period between 1984 and 1990, "a 10-percent reduction in tariff levels was associated with a 2- to 3- percent reduction in employment," with the wage differential between skilled and unskilled workers widening.

Trade liberalization in Brazil during the early 1990s had "a slight negative, short-term impact on employment." Between 1990 and 1997 in Brazil, there was a 32-percent drop in employment in capital-intensive industries and 13-percent decline in labor-intensive industries. Not all this decline in employment, the ILO paper says, could be attributed to trade liberalization since the trade reforms were carried out in a macroeconomic environment that was marked by high inflation and recessionary conditions.

The ILO insists that in the course of undertaking trade liberalization and economic reform "every effort needs to be made to minimize the social costs through measures such as prior analysis of their social impact, in particular the impact of price changes on the poor, of the possible destruction of markets important to poor producers and of changes in the demand for labor."

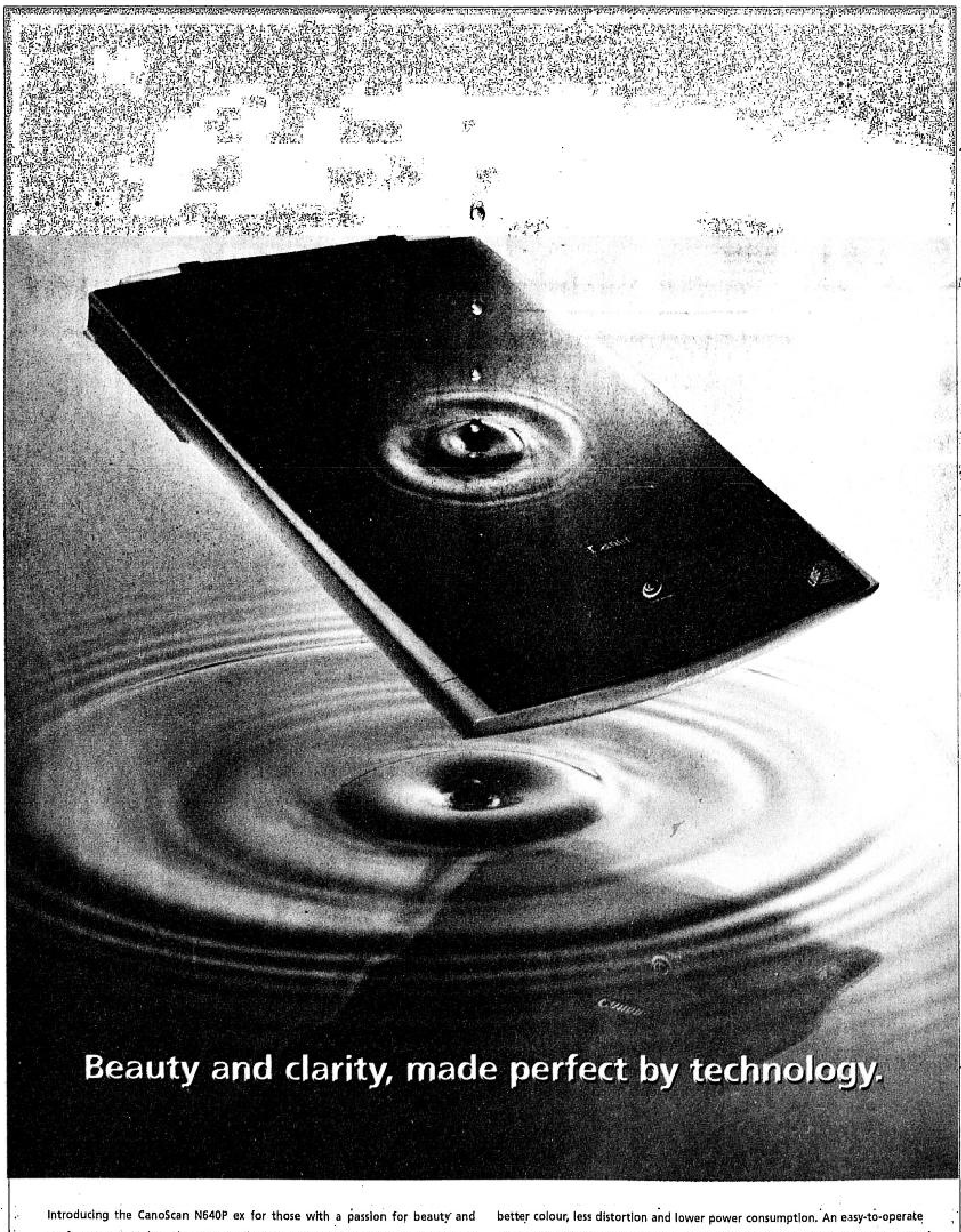
Measures

Specific measures to increase the benefits of trade liberalization to the poor would include provision of credit and the extension of support services to small farmers, as well as marketing assistance to enable them to take advantage of new export opportunities. Also important is to remove biases against small enterprises, promote subcontracting from small firms, and increase "the provision of information and marketing assistance to small firms." All these factors, says the ILO, need to be given serious attention in policy design.

However, even if progress were made in these areas, developing countries would still face severe supply-side constraints to export expansion. Low levels of education and skills in the labor force "are a basic barrier to industrial development," the report warns. Education and training policies are an obvious priority, but also needed, according to the paper are "active labor market policies to facilitate adjustment to changes in the structure of production." These can include measures to provide retraining for displaced workers and job-search assistance.

The report says that "the strengthening of social protection will be essential for mobilizing broad popular support for trade liberalization and other economic reforms."

ILO News



Introducing the CanoScan N640P ex for those with a passion for beauty and performance. At less than 4cm tall, this ultra-slim scanner balances good looks with a high 600 x 1200dpi resolution, making it ideal for high-definition scanning needs such as technical reports and photographs. With a 42-bit input, it offers greater colour accuracy and images that are richer and true to life. The CanoScan N640P ex also features LIDE technology that creates better colour, less distortion and lower power consumption. An easy-to-operate scanner with an eye-catching cosmic blue cover, the CanoScan N640P ex is the perfect example of a beauty created for performance.

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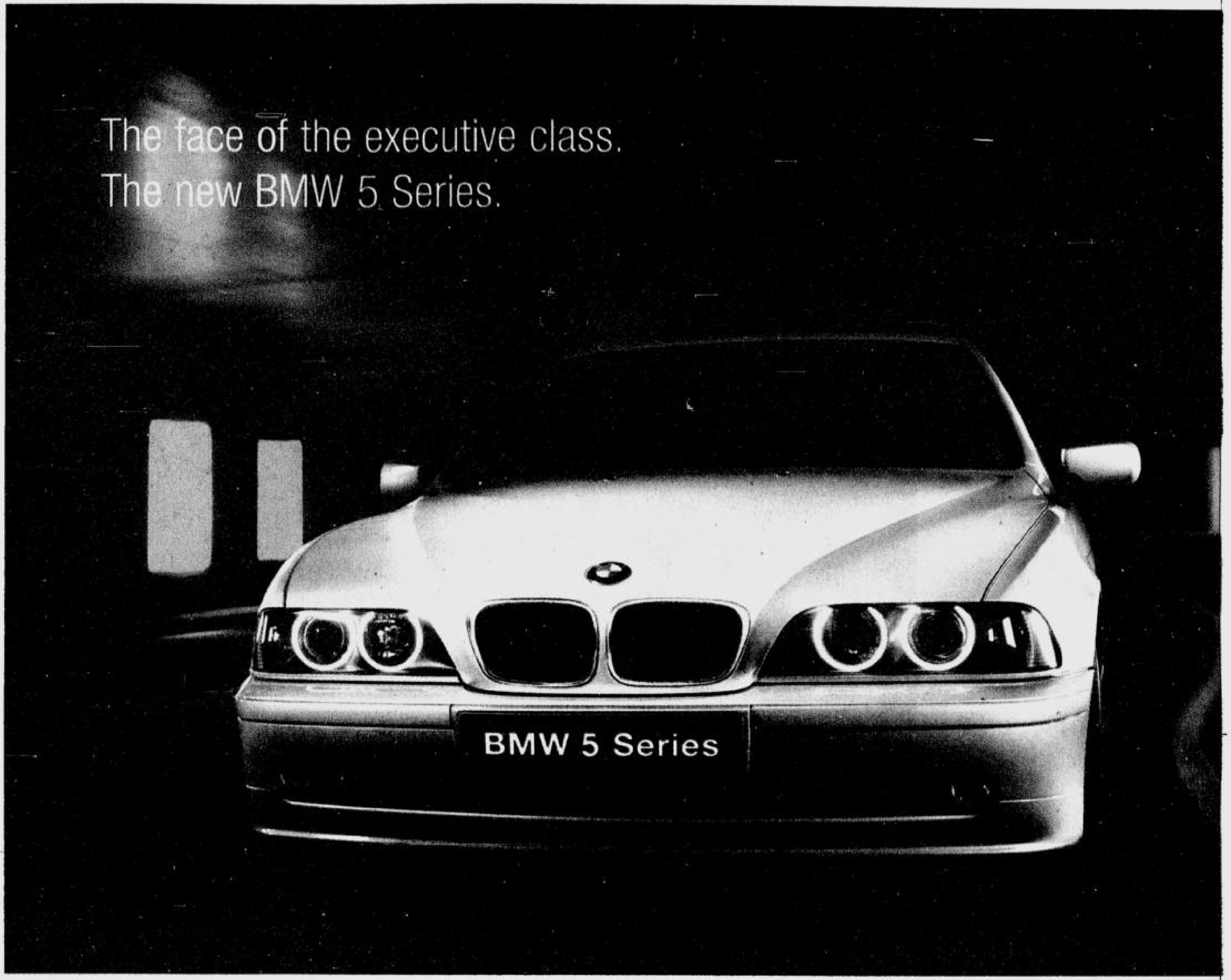
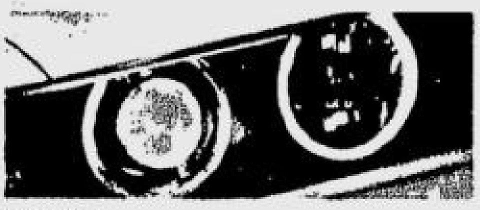
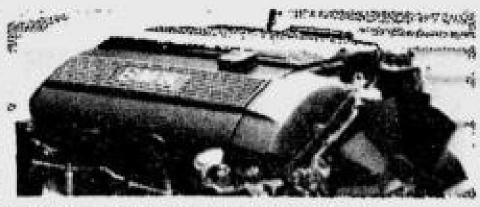


* The BMW 5 has been voted "Chefauto 2001" by Germany's magazine Impulse, 09/01. ** The BMW 5 Series touring has been voted "Company car of the year" by Germany's magazine Firmenauto in the category of "Premium Class Kombis". 07/01.


More style:
the new Corona headlights.


More performance, less consumption and
fewer emissions: the new in-line six.

More luxury:
the new BMW 5 Series interior.

What leads the business elite to success also drives the new BMW 5 Series: a superior, tailor-made concept for business professionals. This proof of leadership offers more style with the new Corona headlight design, more power and running refinement with the new 6-cylinder engine generation and even more innovation with sophisticated technology of ASC+T. These and other features have made the BMW 5 Series "Chief Executive Car 2001"* as well as "Company car of the year"**.

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THE DESIGN of the rooms at the Hyatt is reminiscent of the mansions in Seville, Spain.

THE HYATT'S business center allows guests to continue transacting business from the hotel.

THE REGENCY Club Lounge is a place for relaxation for guests who are willing to pay for a higher level of service.

Bay area hotel sells service and a sunset

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BUSINESS travelers who go around the world are different from the ordinary hotel guests. They go there for business, not purely leisure, thus, they want to be able to continue doing their business in the comfort of their hotel rooms.

They also demand privacy and a higher level of service and amenities, just to ease the pressure off their work, even for just a short time. They do not tolerate inefficiency because they have a lot on their minds. Their time is money.

The Hyatt Regency Manila along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City claims to provide all these requirements of discriminating business travelers, and even a bit more. This is proven by the fact that corporate travelers account for over 80 percent of its client base.

"We always try to give our guests the best. The corporate market segment has led us to constantly upgrade and install state-of-the-art equipment which would make their stay as comfortable as possible and enable them to conduct business anywhere in the world."

To meet these needs, the 260 guestrooms at the hotel is equipped with a voice mail system, broadband Internet access. Some rooms are equipped with a facsimile machine. For added security, a closed circuit television system monitors hallways and public areas.

And in the tradition of hotels in the bay area, the rooms have its own balcony so that guests can watch the famous Manila Bay sunset.

Corporate travelers who have higher needs can check out the Hyatt's Regency Club Lounge, the Hyatt's so-called "hotel within a hotel."

The Club Lounge functions as a private check-in/check-out area, an office with business services, and a place for relaxation with complimentary breakfast, cocktails and canapes served daily.

The room rates range from $160 for a deluxe Hyatt guestroom to $390 for a Manila Bay Suite. Rooms at the Regency Club cost $185 a night.

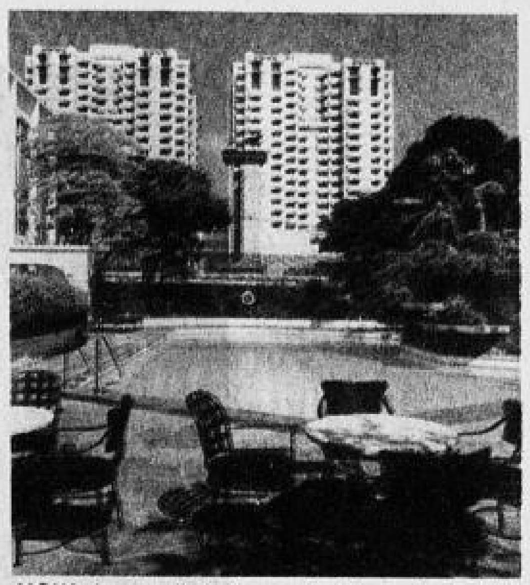
The Hyatt also derives a lot of its business from the use of its 14 banquet and meeting venues, varying in size to accommodate groups of eight in the Boardroom to 500 in the Harana Ballroom.

Room set-ups may be arranged in accordance with unique product launchings or theme parties, on top of the conventional meeting or cocktails.

The Hyatt also has rooms and facilities for handicapped guests, on top of a fitness suite with massage service, swimming pool beauty salon, gift shop, travel agency and even a shopping arcade.

The Hyatt Manila is part of the Hyatt chain of hotels and resorts. Hyatt International operates 60 hotels and 22 resorts in 38 countries, with another 17 hotels under development.

FOR those who want to continue their exercise routine, the Hyatt has a fully equipped gym.



HOW about a dip in the pool at the end of a long day?

With zero interest, it's the best time to apply for credit

ENJOY the convenience of ready cash at zero percent interest for three months with Citibank Ready Credit! Apply for Ready Credit today, and if you're approved on or before Dec. 31, 2001, you will enjoy interest-free loan for the next 90 days.

With no collateral, deposit or guarantor required, it is so easy to apply for a Ready Credit. Your one-time application will give you access to ready cash from P30,000 to P250,000 for everyday use, anytime, anywhere.

Upon approval, Ready Credit users will be given an ATM card, which they can use to withdraw cash from any BancNet/MegaLink ATM nationwide, and a checkbook which they can use to issue checks for establishments that honor such payments.

Ready Credit is a revolving loan where interest is billed only on the amount you borrowed for the period that it was used. Interest is as little as P10.83/day for every P10,000 borrowed.

Payment is made easy because you have the option to pay only the minimum amount due which is equal to 5 percent of your total outstanding balance. Plus, the revolving feature of your credit line means your payments immediately revert as available credit line that you can use again.

So whether you're planning to host a big party, pay for your child's tuition, shop your way through every mall, renovate your house, or simply pay outstanding utility bills, now you can go ahead with the Ready Credit Zero Interest promotion. With Citibank Ready Credit, you'll always have immediate cash at your disposal, making you ready for all of life's opportunities.

For more information on Citibank Ready Credit, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, 1800-10-995-9999 in other provinces or log on to the Citi at *www.citibank.com.ph.*

Enron . . .

(From page C2)

benefits to undue risk, reform backers say.

"The 401K plans are retirement plans—and as retirement plans they should be diversely invested," said Corey Rosen, executive director of National Center for Employee Ownership.

Nonetheless, it's not major surgery that's required, said Rosen, who doesn't want to see the principle of employee stock purchases undermined. "This could be eased by some rather simple rule changes," he said.

Such changes might have been a big help to Huthmacher, who now is out of a job, and out of her savings.

She's even more outraged since she witnessed the spectacle of Enron executives selling millions of dollars worth of shares in the months and weeks before the bankruptcy. Chief executive Kenneth Lay managed to unload small lots of shares on nearly every trading day of June and July.

His sales, which totaled more than $25 million this year, continued into August and then stopped. Huthmacher didn't salvage anything.

The amount she lost, $1,500, is relatively small compared to others. She hadn't been saving that long. She joined Enron about a year-and-a-half ago from Columbia Energy, when Enron acquired it.

But with a mortgage, car payments and another baby on the way, anything would have helped.

"It put me in a position where I have nothing to fall back on," Huthmacher said. "It really hurts. If I don't find employment rather soon I could find myself having to file for bankruptcy." ***Reuters***

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Guess who's buying the goods

By Raul C. Dancel

IN MOST Metro Manila stores like this, one in two products are bought by low-income households.

LOW-INCOME households—generally classified as D and E—buy one out of every two consumer goods being sold in Metro Manila and parts of Rizal and Bulacan provinces, results of a pilot study undertaken by research firm ACNielsen have shown.

Those in the so-called A and B brackets—the high-income groups—barely account for 4 percent, the study reveals.

The study covered 750 households that ACNielsen monitored over a six-week period.

"We found out that the D and E households, which account for 74 percent of all households in the greater Manila area, account for almost 50 percent of consumer package goods sales, while the A and 'B' households account for only 4 percent," ACNielsen's director for Homepanel services, Ma. Susana Macion, said.

Macion explained that while low-income families did not have enough money for huge purchases, "their big base has made them the biggest consumer group in the greater Manila area."

She adds that since most low-income households eat less out, they tend to stock up on food, so their buying pattern is more directed at retail outlets.

New service

The pilot study was conducted in line with ACNielsen's introduction of "Homepanel," a new service that, according ACNielsen managing director for Southeast Asia Bienvenido Niles, "will provide an in-depth understanding of the consumer factors behind a brand's performance in the retail trade, such as penetration, buying rates, loyalty levels, consumer demograhics and brand switching."

Macion says with Homepanel, "we will be able to measure changes in consumer purchase behavior: how they shop, where they shop, how often, how much and what they buy."

"The main difference from your regular knock-on-your-door interviews is that we have a panel. We have a set of sample households over time and what they buy are actually based on purchases, not claims," she adds.

Homepanel has in its "panel" over 1,200 households in Metro Manila and in parts of Rizal and Bulacan. Each household has a "diary" where they record all their purchases. ACNielsen sends field workers to these households to make sure they get into the habit of jotting down all their purchases.

Macion says these households form a "representative sample," meaning they represent a cross section of different socio-economic class from the upper A and B down to the C, D and E classes.

"We also look into other socio-demographic breakdowns, like households with children versus households without children because this will affect purchase behavior," she adds.

Sample over time

Unlike most marketing research, Homepanel keeps its sample households over time. This way, it gets more information about consumer behavior than what one can get from more conventional methods.

"If you would like to evaluate a new brand, with Homepanel, you will be able to monitor switching from one brand to another. With Homepanel, you'll be able to track changes in purchase behavior. If there's a new entry, for instance, you'll be able to answer questions like: What happens to the market? Who are the switchers? Who are trying the new products? What kind of families are they ? Are they the big households? Are these young, single couples?" Macion explains.

Brand loyalty

One area where Homepanel offers a unique perspective is brand loyalty. It goes beyond asking consumers whether they use a particular product, Macion explains, "but loyalty will be based on volume." She says a consumer may be loyal to two laundry products, but may use brand A eight times a week and brand B only twice a week. There is a varying level of loyalty among consumers, and Homepanel seeks to provide something measurable about it.

"Using Homepanel, our clients would know how many are trying their products, how many are repeat purchases and if loyalty is building up," says Macion.

With retail data from ACNielsen's other services, a company will also know how its products are being distributed.

"Our clients will be able to determine how their brands are performing in stores and what are the results of their actions in the market. They will also get a deeper insight into the consumer," says Macion.

"With these information, they'll be able to identify opportunity areas, like which segments they're not tapping into, but it's big. They'll also know which segments are important."

Not cheap

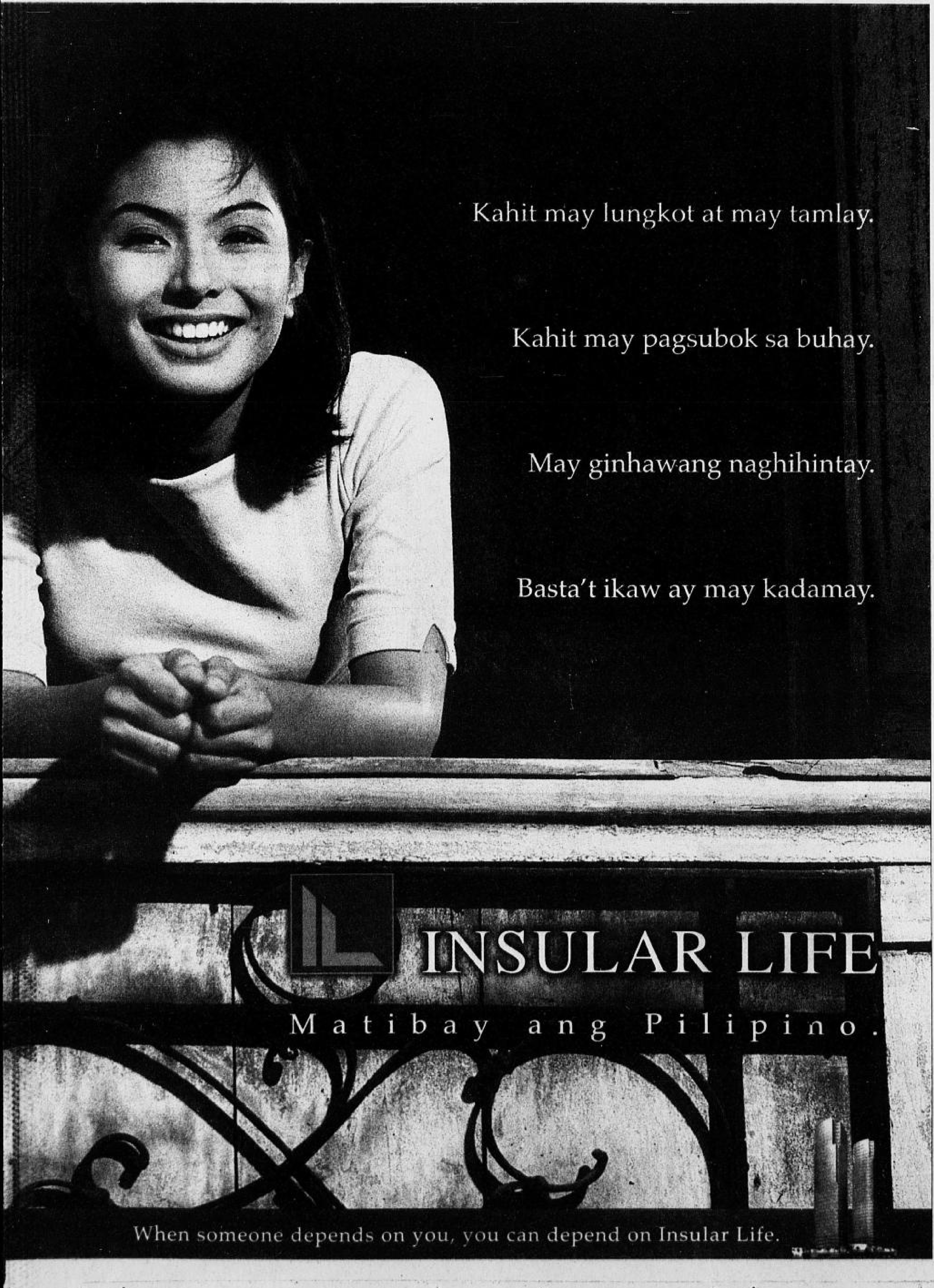
Macion says ACNielsen is currently wrapping up talks to sell Homepanel to at least three big companies that offer nutritional and personal care products and beverage.

The service doesn't come cheap. It costs about P350,000 to P750,000 depending on the complexity of the product, but ACNielsen says it's worth every centavo.

Macion says the data that companies will be able to gather through Homepanel will help them find solutions to problems that ultimately will help them sell more of their products.

"Homepanel will help companies determine whether there's not enough people trying out their new products. If loyalty is going down, we'll be able to target which segments of the population are dropping out of their markets," says Macion.

She adds: "They'll be able to identify opportunity areas, like which segments they're not tapping into, but it's a big one. They'll also know which segments are important so they can direct their marketing efforts at these segments. For retailers, they'll know what families are shopping in specific types of outlets."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Kahit may pagsubok sa buhay.
May ginhawang naghihintay.
Basta't ikaw ay may kadamay.
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Touch Mobile promo gives away P20K everyday

NOW'S your chance to win a quick and easy P20,000 just by getting in touch.

Touch Mobile – the latest cellular offering of Islacom in cooperation with Globe Telecom--is offering customers the chance to have instant winnings of P20,000 with their purchase of a new Touch Mobile SIM or phonekit.

In the promo, called Touch Mobile's P20,000 everyday raffle, new subscribers of Touch Mobile nationwide who purchase and activate their Touch Mobile units or SIMs from Oct. 29 to Dec. 21 are entitled to have a chance to win in a daily electronic raffle draw.

The electronic raffle draws will be held daily during weekdays at the Globe Telecom offices in the presence of a DTI representative, with the weekend draws held on Mondays.

During the promo's 54-day duration, there will be 54 daily winners of P20,000 all in all. The daily winners will be contacted through their Touch Mobile phones by a Touch Mobile representative and will be given formal notification that they have won through registered mail. The names of the winners will also be announced in print ads by Touch Mobile.

The newest digital cell phone service available in the market, Touch Mobile is the only prepaid cell phone service with the lowest rates of P6.50 per minute. Providing nationwide coverage with over 1,495 cell sites, Touch Mobile is also the only cellular service in the country today that has revolutionary voice services like Voice Messaging and Voice Info.

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

Meralco Foundation Institute (MFI) was accredited recently as a training institution for having satisfactorily met the requirements of the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Shown is CSC commissioner Karina C. David handing the certificate of accreditation to MFI president Col. Alex T. Escaño, certifying the school as accredited training institution in the area of 'Technical Education and Teacher Training.' Also shown (from left) are Manolo Santos, assistant head, MFI; Ed D. Guaso and Tina Mendoza, both department heads, MFI and Hilda Diokno, director IV, CSC.

DON HENRICO'S STAGES APO CONCERT

Don Henrico's Pizza Foods Corp., together with Star Concerts, will mount a special holiday concert of the Apo Hiking Society in 'Rated Apo', a special holiday concert loaded with humor and songs. The event is billed on Dec. 18 at Onstage Greenbelt, Makati City. Shown is the Apo Hiking Society composed of Boboy Garrovillo, Danny Javier and Jim Paredes with Star Concerts executive producer Jonathan L. Wee and Don Henrico's vice president for marketing Gem Salvador.

EXCLUSIVE PURE ENERGY DISTRIBUTOR

The launching and contract signing of the exclusive distributorship of Pure Energy at Galaxias Room of Diamond Hotel was held recently. At the signing were (standing) Alvin Tang and Regina Tan. At the front row were (sitting, from left) Peng Chua, N.H. Chua (Asia Pacific Marketing representative of Pure Energy), Vicente C. Tangcueco Jr. (president and general manager of Wyze Systems Corp.) and Gwendolyn Tangcueco.

Manila welcomes Gold's Gym

THE LARGEST gym chain in the world will soon be in Manila. Opening on February at the Glorietta Mall, Gold's Gym offers first-class gym facilities and a network of the industry's best-trained instructors. The gym is home to over 250 fitness equipment, 100 group exercises wxeekly, a spa, a juice bar, and a merchandise shop. Pioneering on "exertainment," a unique concept combining exercise and entertainment, Gold's Gym assures an enjoyable workout experience. There's more than enough activity to guarantee health buffs the body and lifestyle they are aiming for.

Gold's Gym is recognized worldwide as the authority in fitness since 1965. Its Hollywood clientele can attest to the gym's unrivaled commitment to fitness, including Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nicholas Cage, Janet Jackson, Jane Fonda and Mel Gibson. The list goes on.

Fitness at pure convenience. This is what makes Gold's stand out from the competition. The location is easily accessible to residents and office workers of Makati and its neighboring cities. The mall that was exclusively for shopping, dining and plain hanging out will also be a venue for working out.

And the good news for frequent travelers: as a member of Gold's Gym, you have the privilege to work out at any of the 600 locations in 35 countries. You never know, you just might find yourself taking aerobics classes and pumping iron with some famous athletes and celebrities. How much more convenient and exciting can it get?

Today, more than 2 million fitness enthusiasts worldwide go to Gold's Gym with the common goal of improving their quality of life. For more information, visit www.goldsgymmanila.com or call 752-8281.

Pre-Christmas releases from MSV

THIS WEEK, set our spirits high to ease all the tension caused by crisis and chaos as we prepare for the Yuletide season. No matter what, we should not break the tradition of universal joy and peace. As Filipinos, we could accomplish this by doing what is natural to us – get romantic and keep the feeling burning. Remember, love conquers all and Bookware Publishing Corp. proves this once again with their pre-Christmas release of 12 new titles of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks.

The said package of romance' novels include "Fire in my Heart", "Bihag ng Puso Mo", "Kung Kasalanan Man", "Remember Me This Way", "Ikaw at Ako... Hangang sa Wakas", "Paalam sa Kahapon", "Always and Forever", "Dangerous Heart", "Can't Help Falling in Love", "Open Your Heart", "Paiibigin Kita", and "A Promise of Love".

Incidentally, the company reminds their regular readers that the ongoing "Nokia 3310 Raffle promo" will end on February of next year. For inquiries, call Dottie Pineda at 631-8893 to 94 or fax 631-7811.

ATENEO CCE PARTNERS WITH PMMAP

The Ateneo Center for Continuing Education (CCE), signed a memorandum of understanding with the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) recently at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. This partnership brings together PMMAP's pursuit for a professional management program and CCE's expertise on workplace-based, performance-driven education programs. As a training partner, CCE will conduct the Supply Chain Executive Management Program (SCEMP). Shown are (from left) leadership and management development program (LMDP) program director Jet Magsaysay, PMMAP professional development committee member Jose Emmanuel Estrera, CPM, Ateneo CCE director Larry Marasigan, PMMAP research committee director Ma. Tessa Castro, PMMAP professional development committee director Enrique Jose Martinez, PMMAP president Imelda Carrillo, CPM, and PMMAP professional development committee member Antonio Kent Valderrama, CPM and PMMAP professional development committee commissioner Angel Gatchalian Jr, CPM.

MONTEMAR CELEBRATES 5

Montemar Beach Club Inc., one of the country's premier beach resorts, recently celebrated its 5th year in the business held at the resort proper in Bagac, Bataan. The simple anniversary rites was led by (center) Victoria R. Gonzales, president and general manager, and was graced by the club's board of directors including (from left) Ramon Davila and wife; Victor Cipriano and wife; and Rafael Cacho with wife.

11 TRICYCLES FROM RCPE

The Rotary Club of Parañaque East (RCPE) was the recipient of a matching grant from Rotary International in the amount of P963,646, and along the club's various projects, a total of 11 tricycles were donated and given to qualified beneficiaries. Shown is RCPE president Francis Gustilo and District 3830 governor Ernie Salas (front row, second and third from left), with immediate past president Doods Antipuesto, Rotary Ann Miles Antipuesto and the matching grant beneficiaries. The Trike for Life is RCPE's flagship project that won the most outstanding Rotary Club overall category in District 3830, and the most outstanding RC Club president award for Doods Antipuesto.

TOP MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS SIGN FOR GLOBEVOLUTION

Globevolution, the country's biggest cellular sales event, is hitting the malls once again to bring cellphone deals and irresistible offers galore – this time bigger than ever and just in time for Christmas. From Nov. 30 to Dec. 9, Globevolution will happen simultaneously in seven major malls nationwide: Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, Alabang Town Center, SM Davao and Ayala Center Cebu. This season's Globevolution offers as much as 75 percent off cellphone prices, zero interest rates on selected credit cards and lots of freebies and treats for customers. Participating with booths in all the Globevolution venues are the leading names in cellphones: Nokia, Samsung, Sendo, Siemens and Sony Ericsson. Touch Mobile – the latest cellular offering of Isla Communications Co. Inc. in cooperation with Globe Telecom – will also be participating in Globevolution with their own booths. Signing on for the Globevolution event are the manufacturers and distributors of the top cellphones (from left, seated) First Asia Mobile's Brian Siew, Telecom Concept's Alma Buentipo, Cellstar Philippines' Emmanuel Grey, Nokia's Joanne Racoma, Sony Ericsson's Miguel Rodrigo, Siemen's Baby Revilla, Samsung's Martin Maengdal Bae, Sendo's Manny Fernando and Sony Ericsson's Bamba Diokno. Looking on are (from left, standing) Globe's Joanna Africa, Natalie Castro and Eric Francisco, Nokia's Ritchie Javier, Wintelecom's Christopher Uyco, Brightpoint's John Yu, Semicon's Vincent Villalon and Felix Villalon and Brightpoint's Philip Nocum.

Annual Bible conventions due

"SOME 60 Bible conventions are due nationwide soon," says Denton Hopkinson, Watch Tower Society spokesman. These three-day gatherings will start from Quezon City and cover some 49 major towns and cities, starting Nov. 23 to 25 and ending Jan. 11 to 13, 2002.

These will highlight the need to read the Bible daily in whatever language it is available. Originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and koine Greek, it is now published in English, Spanish, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Pangasinan, Tagalog, Waray and many other tongues. "Forget Nostradamus," says Hopkinson. It is much better to be familiar with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Peter and Paul, as well as Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other Bible prophets. Their writings can guide parents and children, and even high government officials in every age and clime. They also point to a bright future for God-fearing men and women under what Peter says are "new heavens and a new earth," free from all forms of terrorism.

Hopkinson, a minister of the gospel, has read the Bible daily for some 50 years.

Other Witnesses of Jehovah like him have read it for much longer. Congregations are assigned 3 to 5 chapters to read and study weekly.

"Teachers of God's Word" will be the convention theme. Ten conventions in Tagalog will be held at the Fairview, Quezon City Assembly Hall. The English program is slated for Dec. 7 to 9. The Sunday public talk will focus on the Bible topic: "Who is Teaching All Nations the Truth?" Some 300,000 delegates, some from foreign lands, plan to attend one or more of these conventions.

In their own small way, theses gatherings will help boost local tourism.

Colegio de Sta. Isabel reunion

CALLING all Silver Jubilarians High School Batch 1977 of Colegio de Sta. Isabel, Naga City. Preparations for the Grand Alumni Homecoming is underway. For information call Naning Cordial in Manila at 938-0483 or Ying Dihiansan in Naga at 054-473-1428.

PCARRD AWARDEES

Dr.Rodolfo Undan, president of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija (third from left) and Anselmo Roque, correspondent of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in Nueva Ecija and a CLSU professor, were cited recently by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) in ceremonies held at the Manila Hotel. Undan received the most outstanding research administrator (Pantas) award while Roque the professional media award (print category). They are flanked by Corazon Roque (left) and Bernardina Undan (right).

Cocolife promotes Daniel Van Soto

COCOLIFE president lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder Jr. recently announced the promotion of Daniel Van Soto from assistant vice president to vice president of sales training department. As vice president, Van Soto oversees the conceptualization, design and implementation of sales training programs and modules aimed at improving the skills and expertise of the Cocolife sales force.

Van Soto started at Cocolife as AVP for sales training in1995 and since then has been active in the design and implementation of modern concepts of trainings and seminars. With his years of field and sales management experience as well as training director in all aspects of sales, Van Soto's inputs in Cocolife's sales growth has been substantial. Some of the seminar modules he designed and conducted are Agency Management Course, Developing Management Skills, Training the Trainors and the Agent's Development Course.

Change management: Key to survival

(First of two parts)

BUSINESS landscapes are changing faster than the increasing opportunities that can be potentially tapped.

So why is it that most companies announce their new initiatives with great fanfare, only to find organizational fatigue at its very first stage of implementation?

Is there an underlying reason for this predicament, and if yes, then how can we prepare organizations to get around it.

To start with, not knowing what to change can be as fatal as knowing what to change and doing nothing about it. Hence, having realized the need to change is the first step.

The following are some of the functional areas that need to be kept in mind as we manage change within organizations.

Manage People. The key to organizational success lies in motivating people to contribute more than you expect from them.

It also requires realignment, as those flashy strategies and plans mean very little unless people at all levels in the organization buy into the idea and commit to contribute towards its success.

Organizations have to do more than just pay lip service to their commitment to people. Areas that need particular attention are skills transfer, performance management, career path, accountability, and communication.

Changing the culture and behavior of people is an extremely daunting task, but is certainly more rewarding in the long run.

Manage change dependencies. Organizations need to remember that changes happening in one part of the organization, more often than not, affect the entire company.

For example, improving customer service through changes in the front office usually depend upon the processing capabilities of the back office.

It is, hence, important to holistically understand the desired change intention and translate this into collective ownership along different points on the value chain.

Use technology intelligently. Harness technology not because it is the latest in town, but to actually deliver tangible benefits based on the specific needs of your company. Get people's buy in, do continual skills orientation, manage risks, and be flexible to the needs of internal and external customers.

Provide effective leadership. Be prepared to get your hands dirty to dig out issues at the frontlines.

Mobilize the entire organization by communicating the urgency to change and making employees passionately believe in that cause. Instill a sense of pride in people that collectively snowballs into organizational performance.

Manage systems and processes. Promote transparent processes that elicit accountability and add to improved customer responsiveness by threshing out process inefficiencies. Provide systems that gauge organizational performance through appropriate roll down into individual measures.

Develop an obsession for customer needs and expectations. Prepare a knowledge organization that is sensitive enough to discern changing consumer patterns through effective market intelligence at the frontlines, which is subsequently shared throughout the company.

Continuous improvement. There is nothing like a perfect gameplan for organizational revitalization, at best, it is a process in evolution. A culture of continual improvement is the only way an organization can prevent itself from disappearing into oblivion.

What could be the benefits? Change is inevitable. Managing it to your advantage by minimizing organizational resistance to it seems to be the only way forward.

This vital enterprise-wide acceptance is key to minimizing time and cost overruns by early anticipation of problems and costly reworks.

Change management acts as a catalyst that ensures promised benefits are actually delivered and the company leverages from anticipated benefits.

Finally, nothing is more important to business than making money and organizations that are ready to invest resources towards managing change in a way that best optimizes the potential of the organization will find themselves better prepared to take advantage of market opportunities arising in the future.

(This was written by S&G International Consulting Inc., an International Management Consultancy firm based in the Philippines and Asia. Its core competencies are in the field of change management, with particular focus on organizational and operational efficiency.)

Manhattan's red, white and blue this Christmas

NEW YORK—The all-American red, white and blue is draped over the giant fir in Rockefeller Center and along the sidewalks in Manhattan.

Twelve weeks after the World Trade Center attacks left more than 3,000 dead, passersby wear Santa hats spangled with stars and stripes.

This year, with US troops on the ground in Afghanistan and with New York still reeling from the deaths, the wave of patriotism that has washed over the United States has tinted the year-end celebrations red, white and blue.

Angels, bells and garlands haven't gone away, but the star among decorations is the star-spangled banner, in all its forms: giant ones hung over the street, in the doorways of department stores, in the shop windows and even on garments and Christmas balls.

The headliner in high-end men's clothier Barney's Fifth Avenue window is a papier-mache head of New York's popular mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, adorned with reindeer antlers.

Taina Martinez, saleswoman in a Rockefeller Plaza shop specialized in Christmas decorations, said, "We've had the patriotic items before, but now, with the WTC (World Trade Center), the demand is much higher. We had a patriotic tree for the Fourth of July but people didn't really notice. Now, everybody wants one."

Rare is the passerby who is not wearing a small flag or a tricolor lapel pin. In other cases, as with Nena Clawton and her six friends, their patriotism is more than evident. They came from Jacksonville, North Carolina and wear a red-and-white-striped Santa hat flecked with blue stars that they made themselves.

"Everybody is asking us where we bought it," said Clawton.

Successful leather goods and clothing designer Kenneth Cole chose stars to decorate his store signs, in New York and around the country.

"Kenneth feels very strongly about the Sept. 11 events," said Kim Tucker, design director of one of the most prestigious shops in the chain, on Fifth Avenue. "He wanted to show his solidarity."

The featured product: a red, white and blue T-shirt with the inscription, "What we stand for is more important than what we stand in." A portion of the sales will go to the families of WTC victims.

A few steps away, at Liz Claiborne, another great New York designer, the red, white and blue dominates the winter collection. The words "Joy, Peace, Hope, Love" urge window shoppers to respect and understand one another.

Children, too, are drawn into the patriotic fervor. New York school children competed in a Rockefeller Center "Ornament Design Contest." Frequent designs include the World Trade Center, police and firefighters—the heroes of the moment. Doves and messages of peace are often depicted.

Lawrence Bryant, a sailor aboard the USS Bulkeley, a guided missile destroyer tied up in the Port of New York, says his plans are to "buy some patriotic jewelry for my wife. I think that this year everybody might celebrate a little more," he said.

Europeans who live in New York or who are here on vacation are taken aback by the patriotic outpouring.

"It is a little bit too much patriotism," said husband Andrew Wright from Britain, here on vacation with his wife. "We're not used to this but I guess we cannot blame them."

AFP

Small . . .

(From page C12)

off. More than 50 percent of the families became her instant customers.

Or a grocery store in Cagayan de Oro City that has put up an intriguing sign: "YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD—AS GOOD AS YOUR CASH! PLEASE SEE THE MANAGER INSIDE"

So you see, there are ways and ways to spread the word around. Among these, the most common are advertising and personal selling.

Advertising and personal selling

When you see Aga Muhlach on television endorsing a hamburger chain, that is advertising. When a salesman knocks on your door and explains the wonders of Longevity water purifiers, that is personal selling.

Advertising and personal selling have a common objective: stimulating and generating sales. The approach in each differs, however. The main differences are: Personal selling is directed at the individual, while advertising targets mass audiences.

Personal selling uses direct contact. Advertising is impersonal and uses indirect contact

Personal selling allows for two-way communication; while advertising is one way, i.e., from the seller to the customer.

As a result, there is a direct feedback from the first and "organized" feedback from the second.

Personal selling is tedious, time-consuming and ultimately expensive. Advertising is ultimately

SMALL/ C11

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HONDA

UP honors top business school graduates

THE UP College of Business Administration recently awarded its alumni who achieved outstanding accomplishments in business management or entrepreneurship or have rendered outstanding public service.

This year's successful UPCBA alumni include Flordelis Francisco-Aguenza, president and COO of Planters Development Bank; Lilia R. Bautista, chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Antonio M. Cailao, managing director of Asia e-Bank and Commercial Banking Group of Fleet Boston Financial; Florido P. Casuela, senior adviser for the Philippine National Bank at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; Cong. Junie E. Cua of Quirino.

Jaime S. de los Santos, commanding general of the Philippine Army; Dakila B. Fonacier, public servant and owner of Odyssey Records; Victoria Bello-Jardiolin, CEO of Confetti Sheos and Natasha; Conchita L. Manabat, managing partner of C.L. Manabat & Co.; Aurora Mauricio-Rubin, senior partner of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

Aguenza began her banking career in Manila Bank in 1965.

In 1980 she became a consultant for Planters Development Bank. She became the head of the marketing group where she expanded the bank's loan portfolio.

She pushed for the bank's active participation in program lending, which was then an innovative credit program that was funded by multilateral and bilateral financing institutions.

In 1993, she was named president of PDB.

Bautista was a college scholar at UP where she took up her MBA and law degrees and was also a Dewitt Fellow at the University of Michigan, where she took her Master of Laws degree.

Before her appointment at the SEC, she was a Trade and Industry undersecretary and held the position of senior undersecretary and special trade negotiator.

Bautista was a TOWNS awardee for public administration in 1977.

BAUTISTA

Cailao founded the Philippine chapter of the international student group Aiesec. After graduation, he joined Citibank and by 1984 he was the Asia regional head for trade in Citibank Hong Kong.

Upon his retirement from Citibank, he was the top ranking Filipino holding an Asian regional job in the organization.

In 2001, he joined the Fleet Bank of Boston in order to help build their commercial banking and e-banking businesses in the Asian region.

FONACIER

Casuela has 35 years of commercial and central banking experience, and 18 years of government service.

He began his banking career as a bank examiner at the BSP where he rose to become staff officer.

He then joined Metrobank where he rose from manager to become vice president. He later on became an SVP at PNB from 1987 to 1993.

In 1998, he became president of Landbank.

He has also established the Surigao Micro Credit Corp.

Fonacier taught at the UPCBA from 1967 to 1975 during which he obtained a Fulbright and Ford Foundation grant.

He left the academe to join the government as assistant minister of Trade from 1975 to 1978, and was appointed assistant minister for financial and management services of the then Ministry of Natural Resources from 1978 to 1981.

He last later appointed deputy minister of the Ministry of Budget where he served until December 1985. He rejoined government in 1998, and served as DTI undersecretary. He was appointed as commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue until January 2001.

He founded the recording retail store chain—Odyssey Records.

Jardiolin set up Confetti shoes in 1984 despite the unstable political and economic climate. She became a trendsetter in shoe retailing with several branches nationwide.

She established Natasha in 1989 and it created an innovative distribution system that produced 300,000 entrepreneurs nationwide.

She is the CEO of the Marikina Shoe Exchange.

She also worked as manager of the Management Services Division of SGV & Co. in 1978 to 1980 specializing on small- and medium-scale industries.

Manabat held a number of top executive positions in a number of firms. As the managing partner of C.L. Manabat, she saw the firm rapidly grow to become one of the top five auditing and consulting firms in the country, garnering 2 percent of the top 1,000 firms in just two years.

CARLOS

Best employee in the country's best employer

WHILE most companies are in a quandary figuring out how to grow the best people and engage them to the task of realizing their long-term mission and goals, it is heartening to know that there's at least one truly Filipino company who knows how to make it happen.

Meet Anabelle Carlos, Jollibee Foods Corp.'s country manager for Hong Kong operations.

"Ma'am Abel," as her colleagues fondly call, her can be considered by employers as a "prized gem" as she exemplifies the model of a success-oriented employee who built her career with the company.

Ma'am Abel started her foray into the then very young fast-food industry back in 1981 when Jollibee was new in the business.

"I graduated with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration and I was very eager to practice what I learned," said Ma'am Abel.

She first did her training at the Jollibee branch where the Makati Rotary Building used to stand before she was assigned as kitchen manager at Jollibee's pioneer branch in Coronet, Cubao.

"I could still remember back then how interested I was in learning the rudiments of fast-food store operations and meeting the challenges of being always on the go as we had to serve and satisfy all the customers who enter the store," she recalls.

In her 20 years of service, promotion to higher ranks with even more challenging tasks became a regular reward for Ma'am Abel who made sure that she gives 100 percent of herself in every aspect of her job.

She was soon appointed as store manager, then moved on to become area manager, manager for opening of new stores, head of systems and training department, regional manager, operations manager, subsequent appointments as assistant VP and VP for operations until she was handed over with the big task of setting up Jollibee's international operations in Hong Kong as country manager. "I practically grew up with the company and I'm very happy about it!" quips Ma'am Abel.

Reward

According to Ma'am Abel, what primarily made her stay was the fact that Jollibee as a company knows how to reward every employee who performs well.

"It is a company that focuses on results. And when you do your job well and meet the expectations given to you, you can be sure that it will be rewarded." Another benefit she liked was Jollibee's concern for continuous growth of its employees.

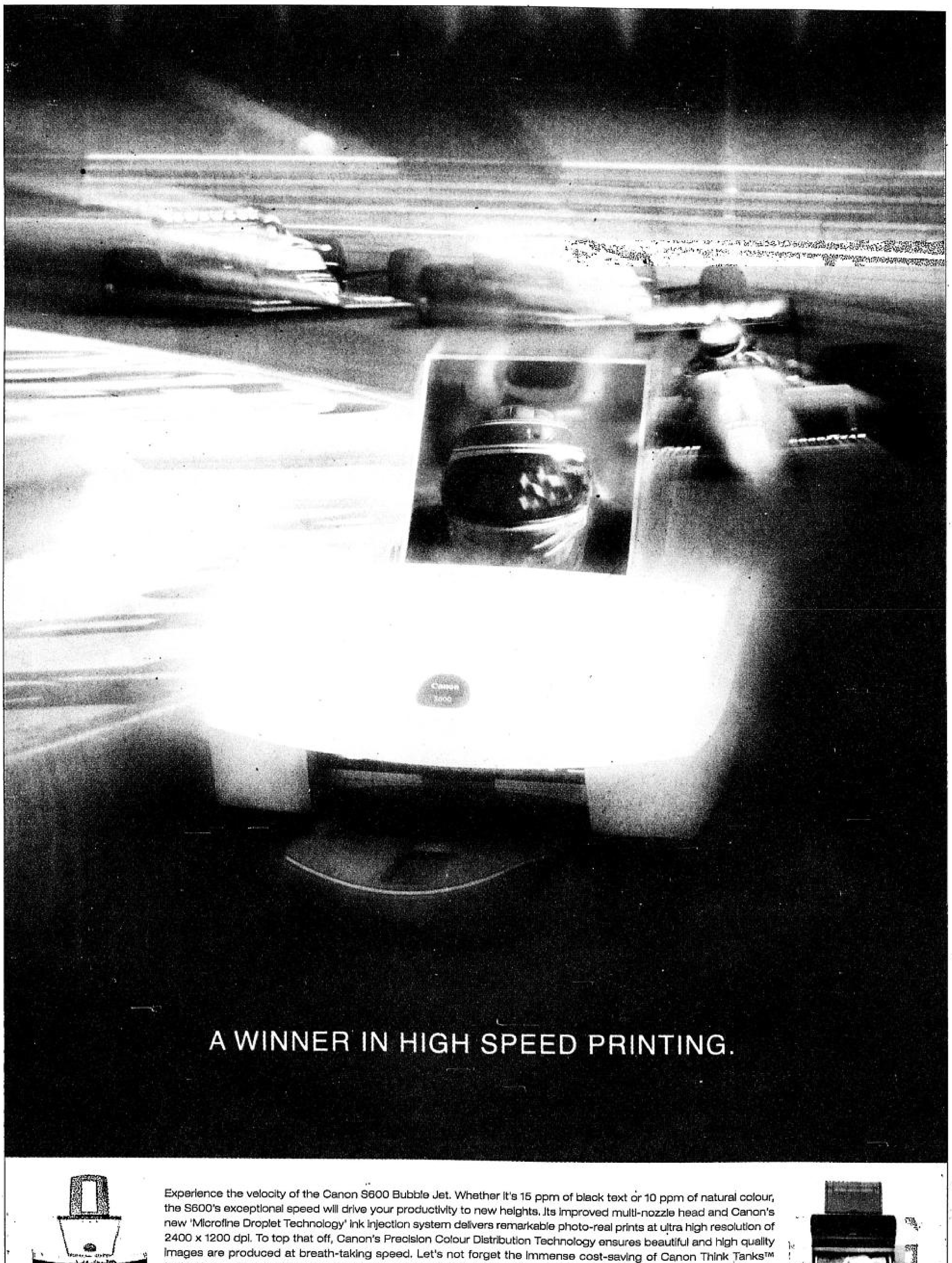
"The company encourages everyone to learn new knowledge and skills and gain as much experience as they can. We share the value of continuous education because it allows us to flourish in our careers and at the same time become of better service to our customers," she explains.

"There's a lot of constant training going on because we should always be in constant touch with new developments and it makes us creative in dealing with situations and problems," she added.

What pleases Ma'am Abel may reflect what hundreds of thousands of employees look for in a company. In the recent Best Employers in Asia study conducted by Hewitt, Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review where Jollibee topped the Philippine ranking, findings noted that Filipino employees registered a high average rating compared to their Asian counterparts in terms of engagement.

Engagement was defined in the study as "how much employees want to and actually do to improve a company's results."

The Filipino employees placed "Value of Society" or their sense of purpose and the organizational values and behavior in their workplace as what counts most in their jobs. Other factors they cited as important for engagement were Senior Leadership (credibility and trust), Opportunities (growth/development, advancement and interaction) and Work Activities (impact, challenge/interest and status/pride).



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Canon
Technology that makes you smile

Get time on your side to win big in stocks

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BUY low and sell high. This is the oft-repeated advice that market analysts give their clients. Follow this advice, they say, and you will make a lot of money.

Vineet K. Wohra, product marketing head of Citibank's Asia-Pacific Investments Business, however, says that investors actually do the reverse. They sell low and buy high, thus, losing a lot of money.

The culprit? One of the seven common mistakes that investors make:

1. Not knowing what you want.

Wohra says investors should first figure out the reason why they are investing. Is it to finance children's education, provide for a comfortable retirement, buy a big ticket item or just to accumulate wealth?

Analyzing the financial needs, Wohra says, would provide a clue on what type of investments would suit the investor and how long can they wait out before they cash in on their investments.

"In short, don't give in to herd mentality," Wohra says.

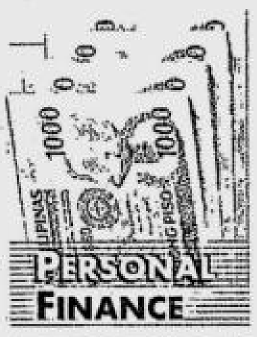
2. Not having realistic expectations.

Like in everything else, success does not happen overnight. Investors who want a higher return should also invest longer.

"The key is to buy, hold, stay . . . and pray!" Wohra says.

3. Not taking a long-term view.

Wohra stresses that investing with a long-term view can reduce the impact of risk. It mitigates the impact of the volatility of the stock market.



4. Trying to play God.

Investors who have made one or two good investments in the stock market are left thinking that they are invincible, that they can beat the market.

Citibank's experience, however, shows that timing the market does not pay off. Just missing the best days of a particular stock would immediately halve the potential earnings from the stock market.

Citibank figures show that $1 invested in the stock market in 1977 would be worth $21.75 at the end of 20 years. But just miss the best 15 months out of the 20-year period and the same $1 would only be worth $5.50.

"Put time on your side. The price of procrastination is high," Wohra says.

5. Putting all eggs in one basket.

Wohra says combining different asset classes reduces volatility over time. The downturn in one sector could mean higher returns in another sector, so it pays to hedge bets.

6. Limiting your playing field.

One way to diversify portfolio is to invest in countries outside your own. Wohra says there is a world of market opportunities in the $25-trillion world stock market.

7. Not having intestinal fortitude

Don't panic when the stock market dives, Wohra says as this will lead to that vicious cycle of buying high and selling low.

One beacon of hope is the fact that after periods of decline, the stock market has tended to move to new heights. This has been true since the 1950s.

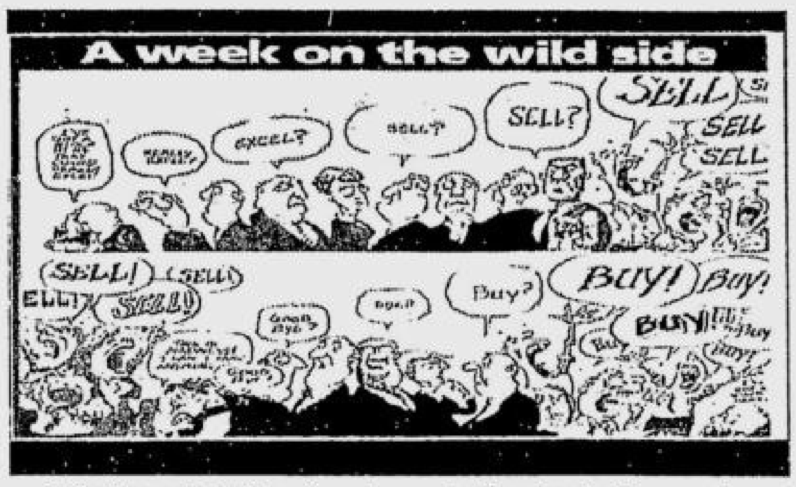
"Over the long term, there are more up years than down years," Wohra says.

Wohra also points out there are no such thing as a "bad" or "good" year to invest. The truth is, the world has seen one kind of crisis or another over the past 50 years, but profit has always been made.

Wohra gives these additional tips for times of crisis.

1. Don't panic. Crises have happened regularly throughout the history of the US markets but markets have been able to bounce back higher.

A week on the wild side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Buy?
BUY!
Buy!
BUY!

1. Don't speculate. There is much uncertainty in the market and the risk of taking a short-term bet are high.

2. Don't forget to diversify. This crisis will affect different markets in different ways. You should stay invested in a range of asset classes and markets.

3. Don't ignore your investment goals. If you invested for your retirement and other long-term aims, you should not be swayed by short-term volatility.

4. Don't go through this alone. Get a professional asset manager such as Citibank to keep you updated on market events and the global economic outlook throughout this crisis.

Small . . .

(From page C9)

cheaper when reckoned in terms of number of people reached.

When to use advertising

How will you distinguish when to use one or the other? Advertising usually works best where:

- Demand is increasing for the product category as a whole.
- The target market is big.
- The product can be clearly differentiated.
- The product has hidden qualities.
- Powerful, emotional buying motives can be associated with the product.

Most small businessmen, however, flinch at the word "advertising," thinking that it is necessarily expensive. However, if you are small and operating in a contained locality, you have some budget-wise advertising options:

Direct mail and direct advertising. Use direct advertising if your market is a subdivision, village, barangay, or small community where it is possible to deliver your advertising from house to house. If you serve a bigger market, direct-mail advertising should be preferred.

Your message, usually in the form of leaflets, may also be distributed to passersby in the perimeter of your shop or store.

Print ads. Small businessmen who wouldn't dream of placing an ad in the national newspapers might consider local publications circulating in small geographic areas. Provincial newspapers would be effective in reaching regional markets.

Progressive barangay and some homeowners associations also publish their own small newsletter. If yours is a business catering to students, consider posting ad copies in campus newspapers. Before paying for an ad, however, check out circulation. You wouldn't want to pay advertising money to a paper that no one reads.

Radio advertising. For remote rural areas—where newspapers are scarce and television sets almost unheard of—radio may be the best medium to use. Radio plugs are also far less expensive than television spiels.

Advertising specialties. Your messages can also appear on T-shirts, calendars, matches, pens, pencils, ashtrays, paper weights, memo pads and other so-called advertising specialties.

However, since these articles allow only small ad space, they are primarily reminder advertising and are likely to be effective in keeping old customers than bringing in new ones.

Outdoor advertising. This is most effective near the store where it serves as a last-minute reminder.

Transit advertising. Called moving billboards, this is advertising in buses, taxicabs and other vehicles. Pedicabs or tricycles also offer possibilities in transit advertising in small neighborhoods.

Online advertising. Depending on your target market, you can place advertising banners in appropriate Web pages or Web portals.

When to use personal selling

Personal selling is suited where:

- The market is concentrated.
- The product needs to be demonstrated.
- The product has high unit value.
- The product has to be tailored to individual needs.
- The firm cannot afford the initial investments required to advertise.
- Products have to be traded in, and trade-in values have to be determined.

As a starting small entrepreneur, you may have to do your own personal selling. As you grow, you can hire salesmen to do the larger part of the selling work. The salesman's job is to interest wholesalers and retailers in your product.

A salesman can help promote sales by showing retailers how to demonstrate the good features of your products to the customers. He can also show retailers how to display your goods so as to get optimum sales.

It is clear that salesmen are among your key employees. It is therefore important to employ the right kind of persons to do the job, train them properly, and support and pay them well.

Whether you employ salesmen or do advertising or both to promote your product, the classic "Aida" formula should always be at work during the selling process. Aida stands for:

Attracting the customer's	ATTENTION
Arousing their	IMAGINATION and INTEREST
Creating	DESIRE
Leading to	ACTION.

When the "Aida" process is completed, a sale is generated.

(Note: For more information on going into business, check out "You, Too, Can Start Your Own Business" and "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" published by the UP ISSI and Serdef, and available at selected National Bookstore branches. Or call Ving Cinco or Emy Alegro at 926-6376; 928-7076 to 79.)

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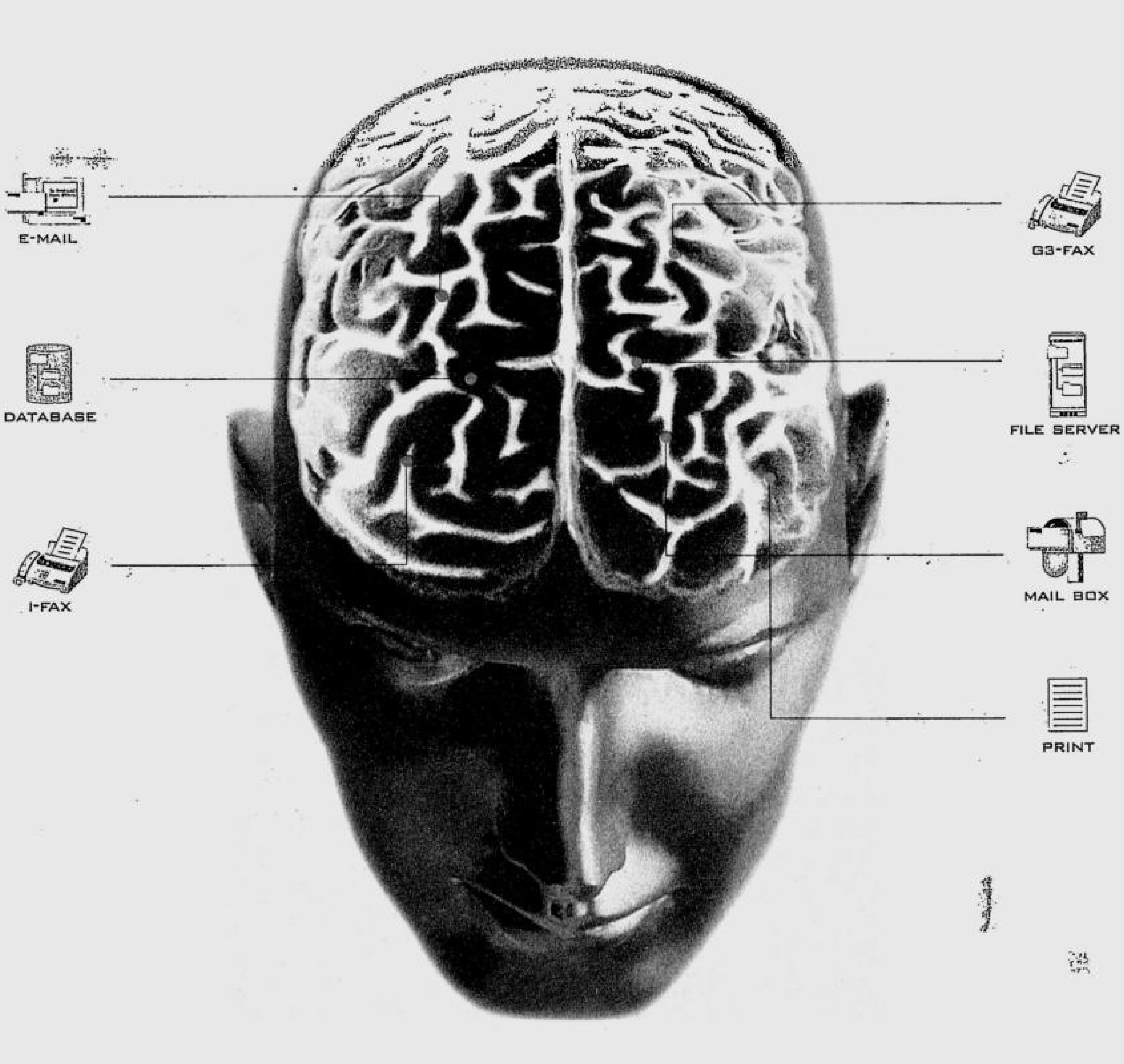

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Small, ingenious ways to promote your product

BY MYRNA R. CO
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

GOING INTO BUSINESS

ASSUMING you have the best "value-for-money" product in the world, do you think it would move if you don't spread the word around? Of course not. You have to promote it.

Promotion refers to all activities you do to get people interested in your products and services and eventually buy them.

You must have heard of Segway, the invention that is predicted to change transportation modes worldwide and touted to be the most important invention since the pantyhose and the Internet.

Its inventor generated a lot of media hype about his machine, cleverly dropping hints about it while keeping the full design and prototype under wraps. As a result, he received sizeable orders even before he formally launched his product.

Small, inexpensive ways

Your product might not attract similar media attention. But take a cue from small entrepreneurs who have succeeded in creating interest for their products through small, ingenious, and inexpensive ways:

Take a leche flan stall located along Ortigas Avenue just off Rosario Bridge. While going down the bridge, I chanced upon a balloon-festooned signboard that said "LECHE FLAN AHEAD." A hundred meters further, another sign loomed: "LECHE FLAN . . . SLOW." Again, colorful balloons were cleverly used to attract the eye.

As I walked ahead. I came upon a third sign that read: "LECHE FLAN . . . STOP." And so I did stop as bidden and was greeted by a small but cheerful little shop whose *piece d' resistance* was huge leche flan llaneras—stacked six feet high—wrapped in multi-colored tinfoil. I brought home two llaneras of the stuff and got one free.

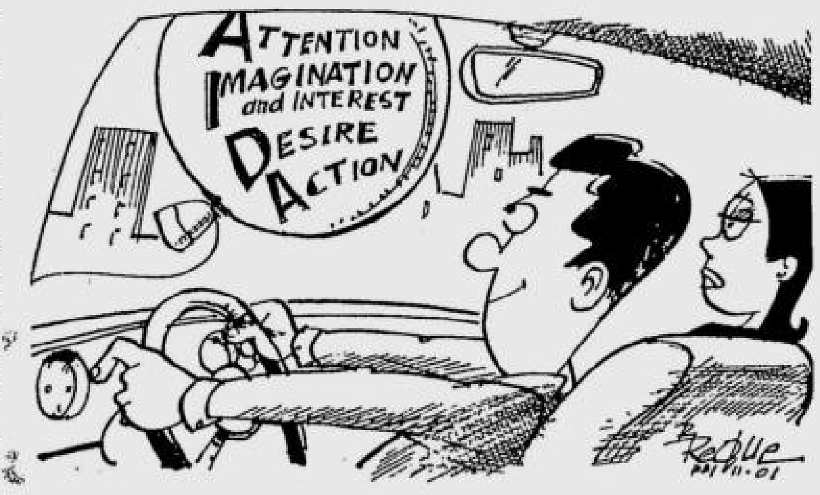
The owner's little gimmick worked with at least one customer—me!

Take another case of a housewife in a middle-class village in Mandaluyong City who wanted to cash in on her baking skills.

On the day her hole-on-the-wall (It was really small!) bakeshop opened, she distributed a complimentary bag of *pandesal* to every household in the village. Outside each bag was a computer-generated letter and sketch leading to her shop.

Her investment in promotion paid

SMALL/ C9



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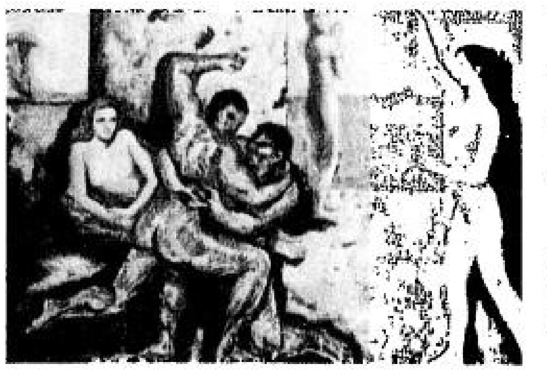

"LUZVIMINDA," 1987, oil on canvas, 5'x6' exhibited at Gallery 8, Bergumot Station, Santa Monica, California

Filipino artist conquers sunny California

By Gino Dormiendo

IT was a trip that, in hindsight, proved doubly fulfilling, both in recharging the worn-out spirit and in exposing oneself to the reinvigorating air of the truly cosmopolitan art world.

From mid-June to late November this year, artist Roy Veneracion was in California to visit relatives and friends and, with wife Susan in tow, had to be both present for their daughter Rachel's wedding. During their six-month visit, Veneracion was witness to the American nation's sudden shift in mood and temper, as the events of Sept. 11 ultimately changed the course of contemporary history.

Before 9/11 unfolded, Veneracion had gotten the nod of the exclusive Bergamot Station Arts Center Gallery 8 (Michigan Avenue, G-8, Santa Monica) for him to be included in a group show of contemporary Asia fine art. With five works in oil and acrylic, the artist was in the company of such prominent artists in various

FILIPINO/ p.D5

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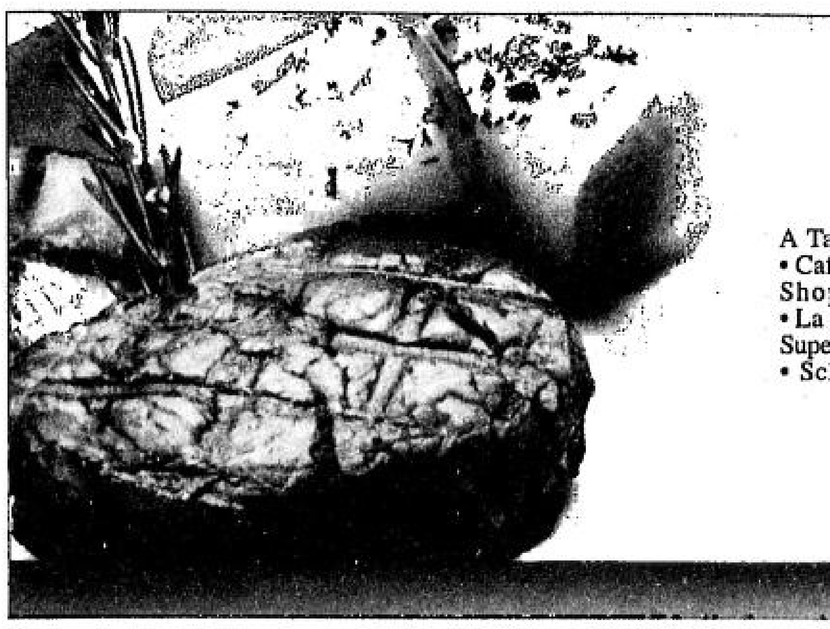
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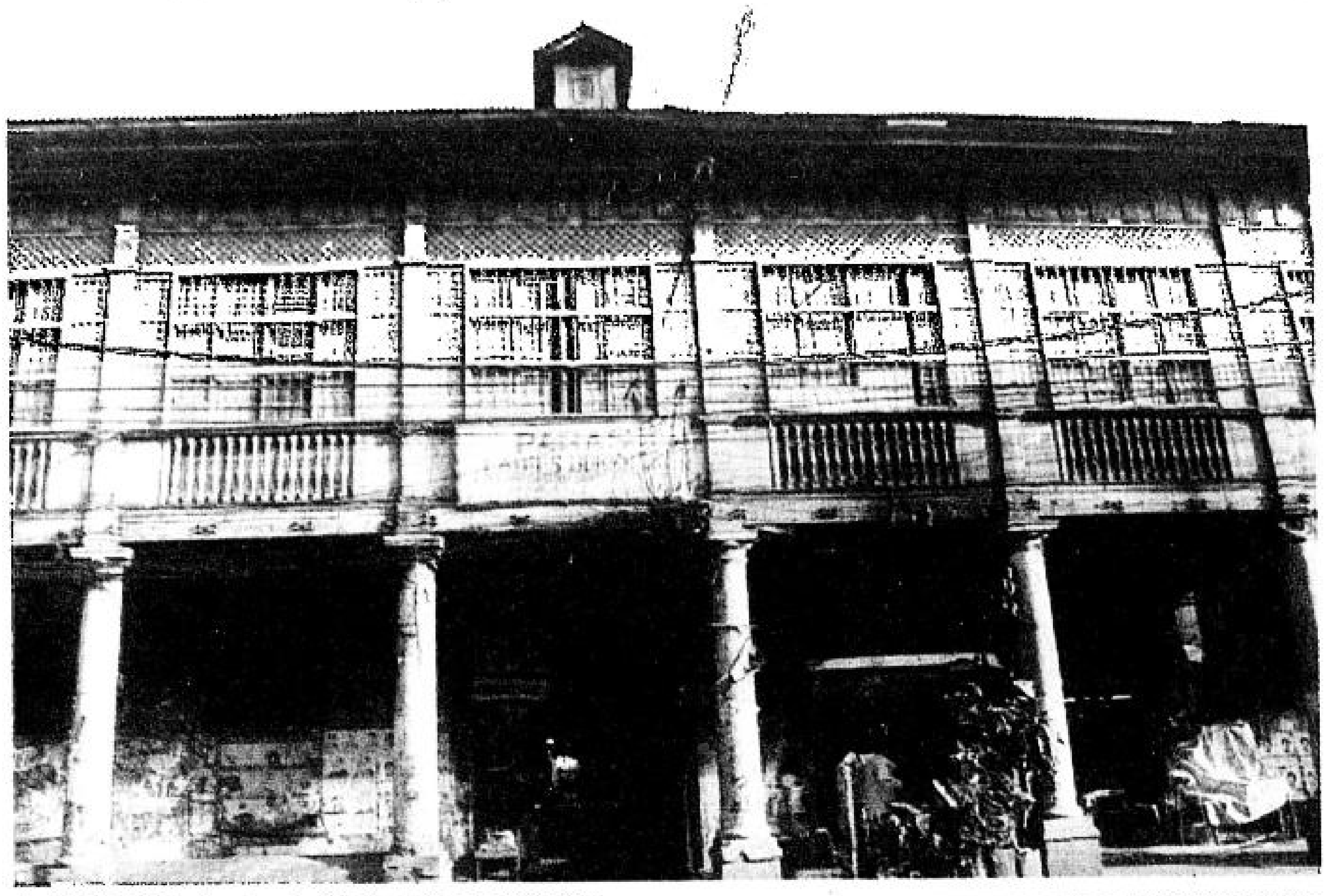

A HERITAGE structure in Quiapo faces extinction.

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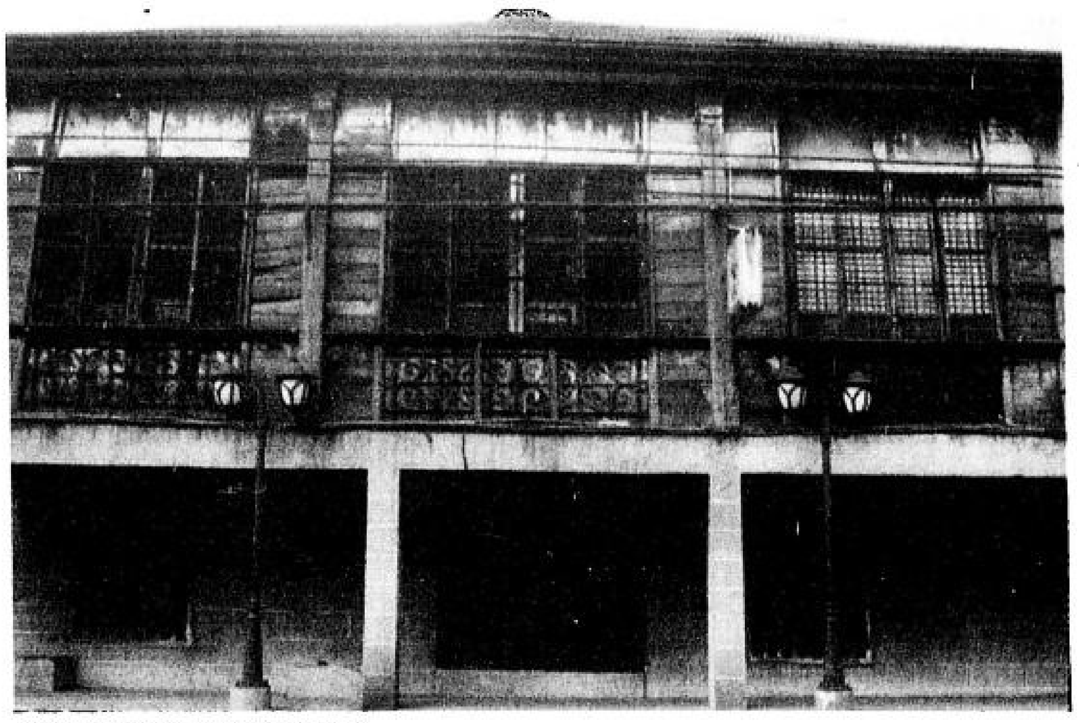


REMNANT of a glorious past

QUIAPO

What lies beneath

By Constantino C. Tejero

WHY would a place like Quiapo merit the deep interest of hardcore academicians, that they would actually conduct a guided tour of the place and hold a two-day conference on it?

The place has always been there since as far as any Manileño can remember. It wasn't as if it was going to sink under the sea tomorrow, so why bother? Indeed, why care?

We found out when we attended the conference "Manila's Heritage: From Past to Future in Quiapo," conducted by the Cultural Heritage Program of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the Ateneo de Manila School of Social Sciences.

It was held Nov. 26-27 at the Far Eastern University, the school chosen for its proximity to what is known as the heart or armpit of Manila (depending on the speaker's mood at the moment). The discussions were presided over by Fernando N. Zialcita, Cultural Heritage Program director, and Emma Porio, Department of Sociology and Anthropology chair.

During the workshops in the morning, Quiapo's wealth of history and culture long buried under centuries of rubble and rubbish was uncovered layer by layer by workshop participants and lecturers.

Chaotic place

Just consider the papers presented:

- "Crucible of Nationalism," by Ambeth Ocampo
- "Quiapo: From Suburb to Downtown," by Pio Andrade
- "The Cult of the Nazareno," by Celia Bonilla
- "The Moveable Arts of Quiapo," by Santiago Pilar and Victorino Manalo
- "The Music of Quiapo," by Patricia Brillantes Silvestre
- "Quiapo: Seat of Filipino Popular Culture," by Benjamin Basilides Bautista
- "Empty Spaces and Heritage Structures of Quiapo: Its Potential for Social Housing," by Ana Marie Dizon
- "Lakaran sa Quiapo: A Model for Cultural Rediscovery," by Raymond Cosare
- "The Religious Tapestry," by Teresita Obusan
- "Space, Identity and Power: The Filipino and His City," by Porio
- "Manila's Visual Disorder," by Zialcita
- "The Impact of Government Policies upon Inner Manila," by Mia Quimpo
- "The Esteros of Quiapo: Their Changes through Time," by William Reynolds
- "Pathogenic and Nonpathogenic Microorganisms in the Underpasses," by Benjamin Bolo Jr.
- "The Arts of Healing at Plaza Miranda," by Eufracio Abaya

The list of the papers' titles alone should summarize for us the life and culture that is there. The place is so brimming over, that *disorder* is just the right word to describe the place, and *confusion*, and *chaos*, and *din*—not only in its looks but also the sounds, the tastes, the smells, involving all the six senses, in fact (remember, the place has a spiritual dimension as well).

City of migrants

"In other cities, there are rewards for visual order. There are also penalties. Things like that unfortunately don't exist in the Philippines," Zialcita said during the summary of reports in the last afternoon of the conference.

FEU exhibit shows a wealth of history and culture.

"Manila is always portrayed in dark colors," he continued. "People don't identify with their city. What do you expect? They don't care... This is a city of migrants. In the last 50 years, it has always been a city in transition."

Bautista, on the other hand, found flowers in the rubble when he countered that Quiapo was *"magulo, maingay, makulay, pero buhay."*

This being one of the country's greatest historical sites, clearly something has to be done to arrest its rapid physical decline.

And so recommendations were made, such as either rigid zoning or flexi-zoning (mixed-use development); participative planning (consultation with and involvement of the locals); holding a contest for a design of the *esteros*; conducting regular tours as part of the curriculum from grade school to college; constant dialogue with residents of the Muslim quarters (during the tours); ban on the piracy of CDs.

"But those are not only CDs being hawked there," someone said. "*Lahat ng klase, may* SIM cards, *may* shampoo sachets, perfumery and toiletry—and this, again, is a form of Western colonization."

Mike Carpio, dean of the FEU Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts, countered: "But it's part of the charm of Quiapo. Let's not adulterate it. Maybe we can legalize such activities, or ban only the piracy. But let's leave the little things alone, because they constitute what is Quiapo. It's no longer Quiapo if they're gone."

Heritage site

Someone raised the issue of the security involved in the regular tours of students.

A Scholastican grade-school teacher discussed the environment and empowerment, of the search of who we were. She proposed organizing the barangays in the vicinity and the students of the University Belt so that they would ultimately own Quiapo.

In the debate, all were agreed, however, that Quiapo should be declared a heritage site.

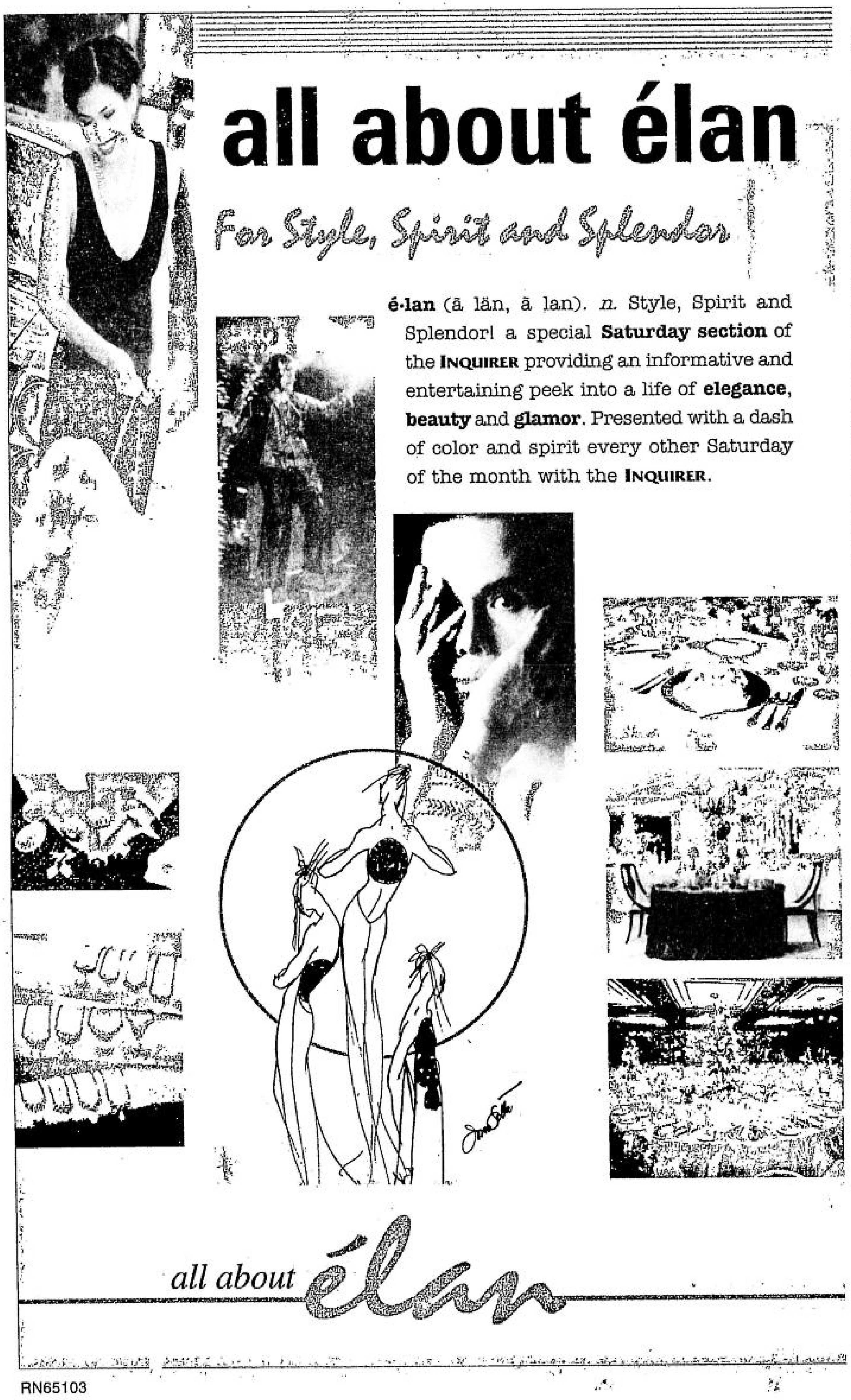
"Of course, let's do it as fast as we can," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who arrived late. "Let's legislate. Let's work it out."

After the presentation of resolutions by the different workshops to the people from City Hall, the mayor went on a lengthy discussion on urban renewal, which covered Plaza Miranda and crossed the Pasig over to Intramuros, Mehan Garden and Ermita.

Finally, Trixie Angeles from The Heritage Conservation Society presented the Heritage Bill. The conference ended on a high note, with a clear appraisal of our right to culture and our right to protect evidence of such culture.

Clarity of vision is not enough, however. It should be followed by immediate action backed up by determination.

As the mayor said: "A house that is not maintained just decays and crumbles. Quiapo is like that. *Napabayaan lang. Kailangan lang linisin, kuskusin, upang ibalik sa kanyang katangi-tanging ningning.*"



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Pacheco shows latest works

RAFAEL Pacheco, finger-painter and sculptor, is holding the show "Larawan: Portrait of a Nation" until Jan. 6, 2002 at the Las Brisas Hotel, Antipolo City.

Noted for his mural-sized evocative paintings of the undersea world and religious iconography as well as intimate portraits of common folk and historic figures, Pacheco has emerged in recent years as an intensely driven sculptor whose statues in marble and welded brass, like "Juan and Diwata ng Kalikasan," now tower over the forest and river of the Uugong hills in Morong, Rizal.

Two of his latest sculptural oeuvres were unveiled on Dec. 8, Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the Philippines and of various places in the country such as Antipolo. These are "Kapwa Mo Filipino" and "Kalayaan," both life-size works in welded brass which sum up the artist's vision of the world and his message for his times: the depths of despair and suffering that human beings are cast into, as well as the heights of redemption that they can attain as they fulfill their destiny in a world defined by freedom and dignity. In making the works, the artist said he was inspired by recent political troubles in the Philippines and global terrorism.

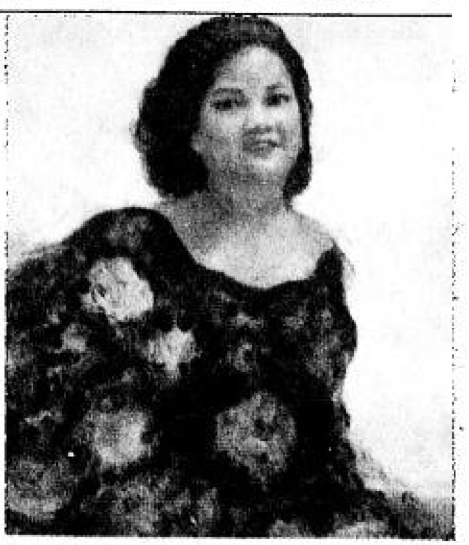
Pacheco describes his new works:

" 'Kapwa mo Pilipino' depicts Everyman chained, forced to the ground on his knees, and like my earlier sculptures, shows humanity with imploring eyes cast heavenward, his mouth agape, a picture of suffering caused by his own kind, through wars, exploitation and now terrorism. 'Kalayaan' is a fantasized figure of humanity as Winged Victory, a figure rising from the river of life with his eyes raised to the sky in a gesture of hope, a metaphor of an apotheosis reminiscent of the Resurrection. This represents my vision as a Filipino artist; this is my worldview of freedom. I also imagine this as Everyman's dream: to realize both his humanity and his godhood. At the same time, I want to reach out to the hearts of my countrymen and to the world beyond. Peace, justice and deliverance from evil are, after all, universal ideals."

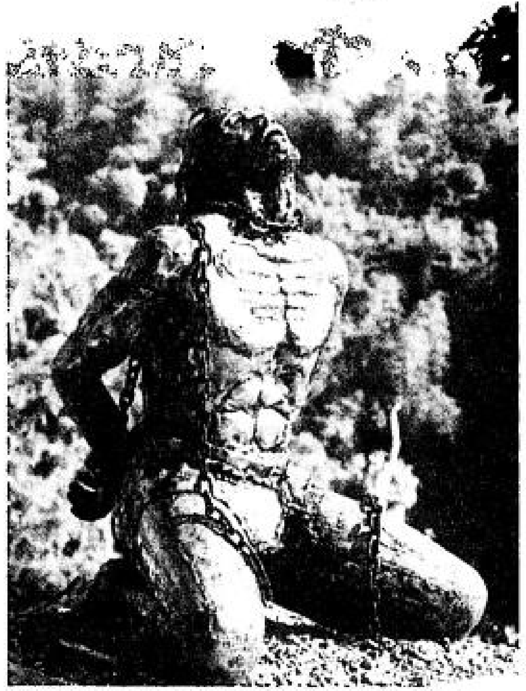
Pacheco's new paintings—portraits and seascapes—will also be on display. These are elegant renderings in Pacheco's mixed media technique in oil pastel and ethnic textile of Filipino women who are public figures, such as Pining Gatlabayan of Antipolo, Belen, Bernardo of Morong, Belle Isidro and other personalities. These portraits are the artist's tribute to the beauty and dignity of the Filipino woman. One particular painting is the artist's visual celebration of his wife Cely, in flowing floral dress backdropped by a lilac sky. There are also the finger-painter's latest representations of the surreal marine world which have become his signature pieces in the Philippine art world, explorations and explosions of color and organic forms representing the threatened environment.

As in his past exhibits, the artist will again give free lectures and demonstrations on finger-painting. There will be on-the-spot and portrait-painting interactive workshops involving other visual artists and members of the art public.

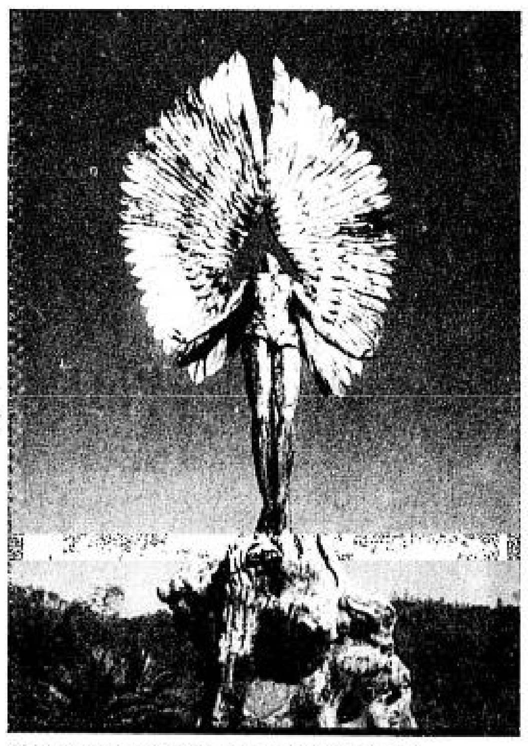
Call Carmen or Luth at 634-2422, 635-4573 or (0919) 432-1369.



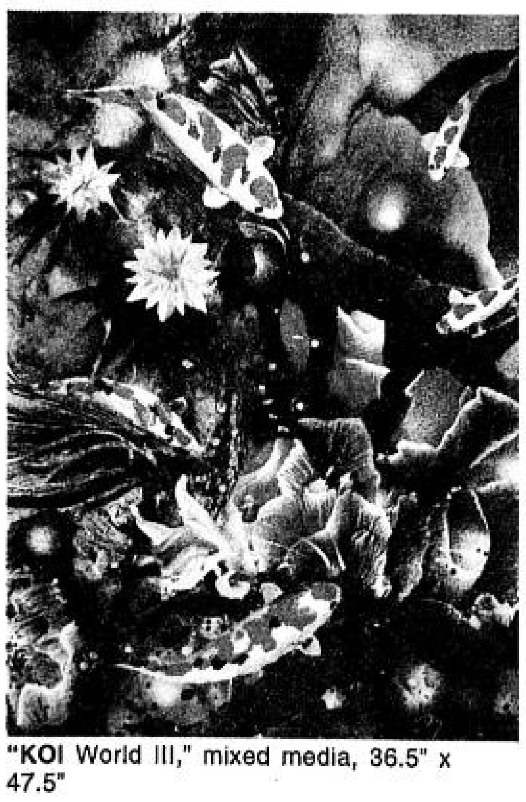
"ARACELI of Morong," mixed media, 31"x39", 2001



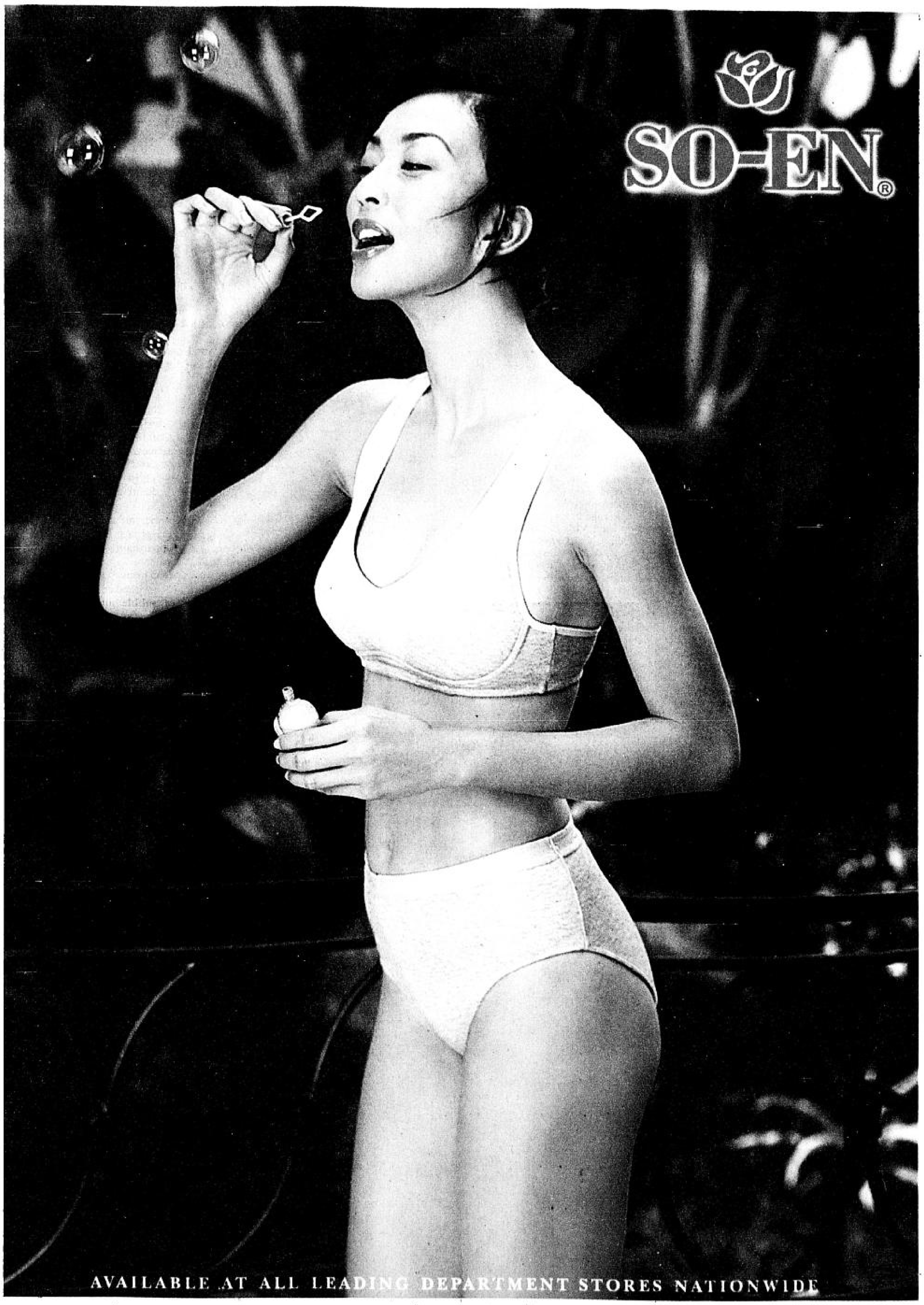
"KAPWA Mo Pilipino," brass, 4' x 2.5', 2001



"KALAYAAN," brass, 6' x 3', 2001



"KOI World III," mixed media, 36.5" x 47.5"



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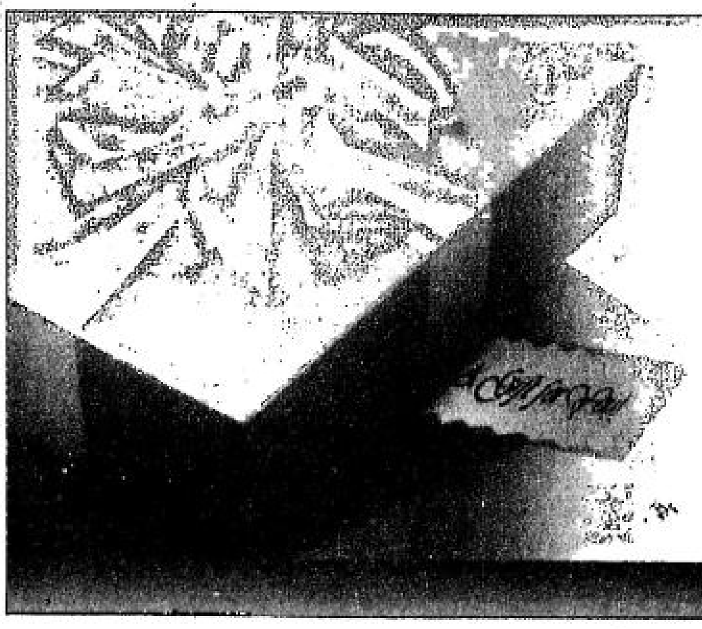

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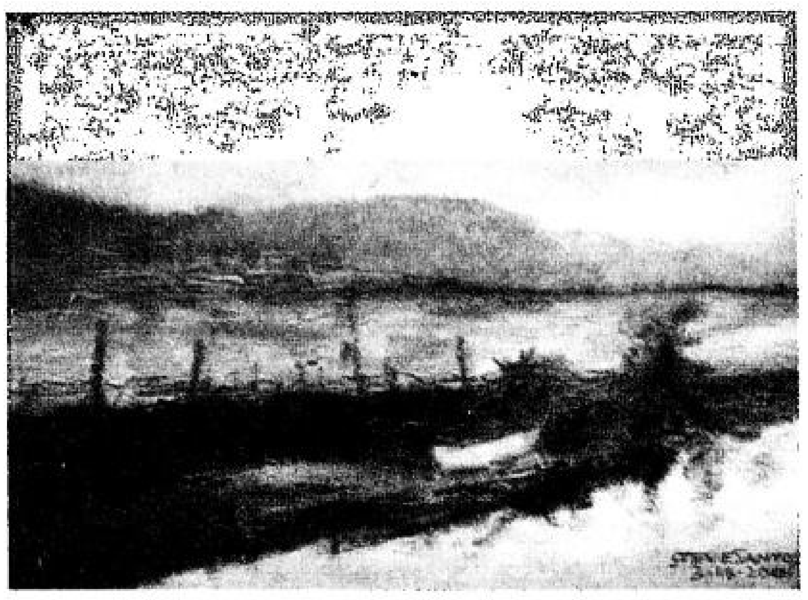
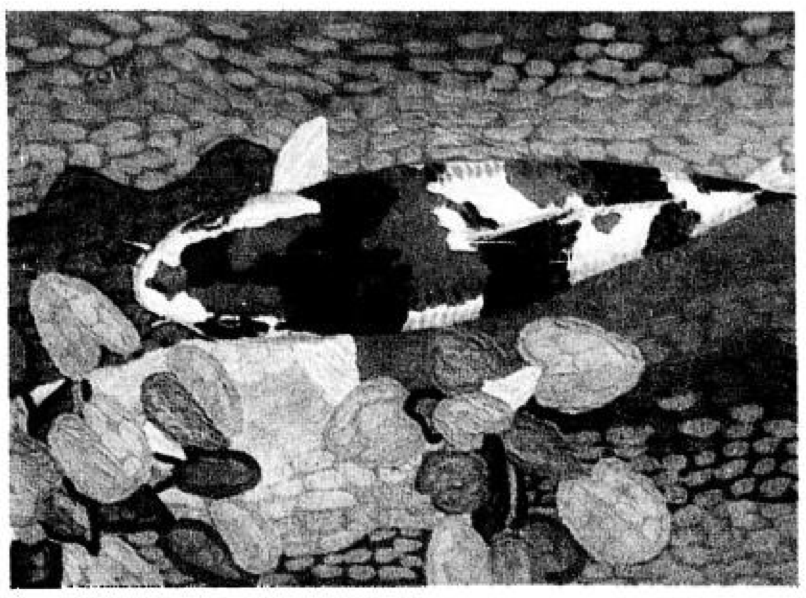
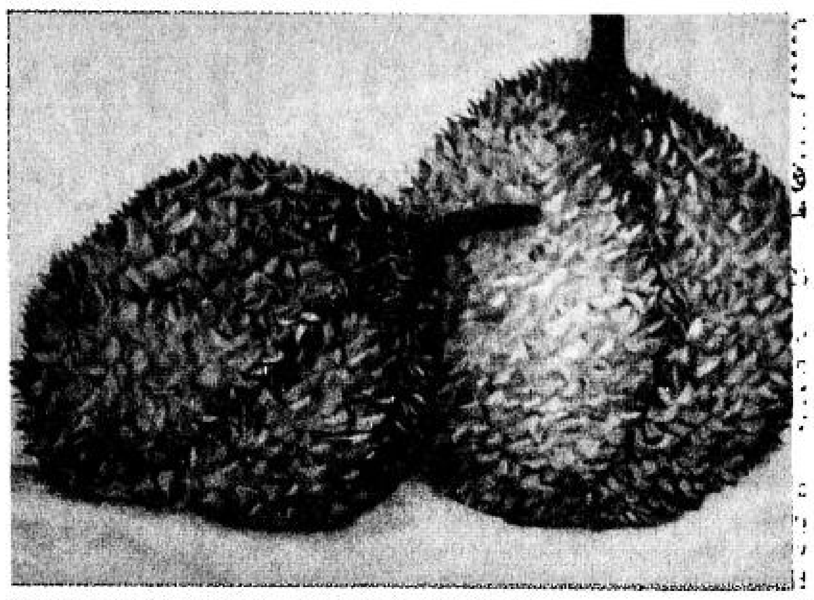


"FISHERMAN'S SEASCAPE" by Steve Santos



"KOI WITH THE GOLDEN YELLOW LILY" by Paul Anthony Gustilo



"DURIAN" by The Anh Benedic at Le Soufflé

Santos at West Gallery, Gustilo at Savana, trio at Lopez Museum Shop

VISUAL ARTS

STEVE Santos is back on his own, letting his work do most of the talking. His latest collection of small landscapes in oil features picturesque and serene snapshots of nature, showing the artist at ease with and open to the possibilities his subject matter presents. The collection is on view at the West Gallery (Art Walk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City) until Dec. 18. Call 634-1284.

GUSTILO AT SAVANA. Impressionist Paul Anthony Gustilo opened "My Color Impressions 1," his 12th solo exhibit, at the CTRC Building of the Savana Commercial Center (1203 corner Pablo Ocampo St. and Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City). The exhibit showcases works in oil, acrylic, watercolor and mixed media tackling the artist's famous ""Koi"" and "Water Lily" series. The Japanese multicolored fish are presented against a backdrop of lilies in golden yellow, golden orange, pink lavender, cobalt blue, yellow ochre and peach.

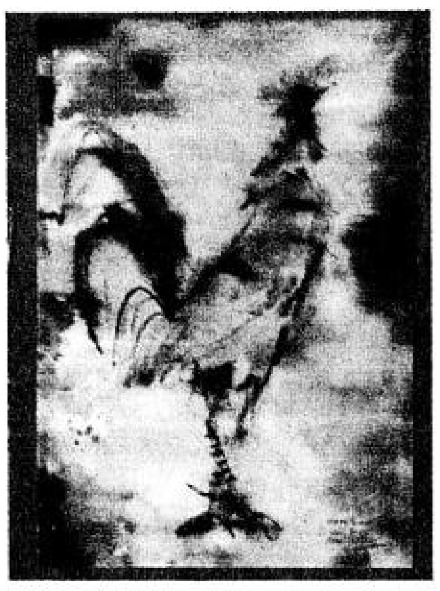
GROUP SHOW AT LOPEZ MUSEUM SHOP. Claude Tayag, Jon Pettyjohn and Mike Aguas hold "The Elements: Earth, Wood and Fire" at the Lopez Museum Shop (Power Plant Mall, Makati). Pettyjohn's pottery evokes the earth; Tayag pays tribute to nature through his wood works; and Aguas reworks metal into something decorative and practical. Call 898-0981.

MAGNO AT GLORIETTA. Carlo Magno holds "Looking Back" until today at the Art Gallery Philippines of the Glorietta in Makati. His works border between realism and impressionism.

MAKATI ARTISTS GUILD EXHIBIT. The Makati Artists Guild is holding its debut exhibit "Unang Pitik," at Le Soufflé, The Fort until Jan. 15. The guild is composed of former professionals mentored by the noted social realist Renato Habulan. Their works present traditional subjects in a new light. The Guild is composed of Kerima Adam, Mardy Alcid-Aguilar, The Anh Benedic, Aurora Caparas, Deborah Del-Pan, Eileen Bondoc-Escueta, Albert Grupe, Linda Caedo-Lupton, Teresita Mapua, Tony Martino, Ed Ramos, Micaela Lourdes Reyes, Deborah Thomas, Ina de Vera, Lily Wuzela and Katherine Molly Yap.

'A PILGRIM'S JOURNAL' AT BIG SKY MIND. Big Sky Mind (66-B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, QC) holds a free screening of artist JJ San Pascual's first film, "A Pilgrim's Journal," at 11:30 p.m. tomorrow. The film is a digital video journal of a Marian pilgrimage from Edsa to Europe (Rome, Lourdes, Fatima) to Mexico City (Villa de Guadalupe). It is a visual diary that captures the faithful in pilgrimage and their devotion to the Virgin. The film also covers the colorful Mexican celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Call 437-0002.

JACINTO AND TIANCO AT GALERIE Y. Galerie Y presents "Scenes We Love," an exhibit by Dr. Sylvia S. Jacinto and Dr. Elizabeth Amelia V. Tianco at the SM Megamall, Artwalk, Building A, Mandaluyong City. Jacinto's subjects are parks, gardens and flowers from all over the world. Tianco presents scenic spots drawn from the deepest wells of inspiration and memory. The exhibit runs until Dec. 20.



THE ATENEO Art Gallery Calendar 2002 is presented in a cobalt blue paperboard slipcase featuring National Artist Vicente Manansala's "Rooster" (1955). Some of the most celebrated paintings and sculptures in the permanent collection of the country's first modern art museum are reproduced in this desktop calendar. Each featured work is accompanied with a critical appreciation written by the gallery's senior curator, poet and art critic Prof. Emmanuel Torres. Call 426-6488/6001, local 4160.

MAKATI Artists Guild members: (front row) Ed Ramos, Renato Habulan, Teresita Mapua; (second row) Ina de Vera, Linda Caedo Lupton, Kerima Adam, Mardy Alcid-Aguilar, The Anh Benedic, Micaela Lourdes Reyes; (third row) Lily Wuzela, Rory Caparas, Debbie Del Pan, Albert Grupe and Eileen Bondoc-Escueta.

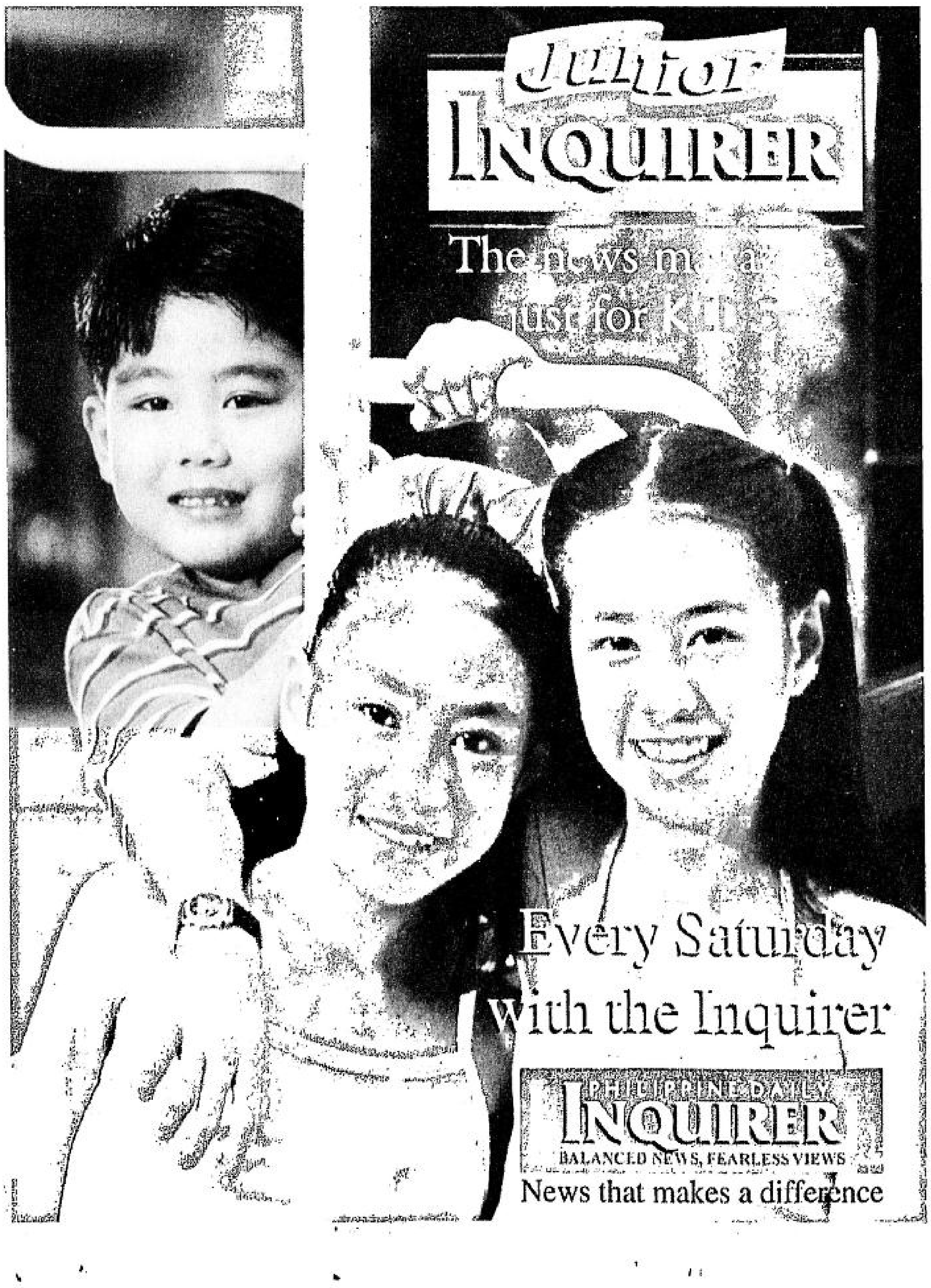
MALIC AT THE CCP. "Maniningal" is Jerome Malic's visual commentary on commerce, branding, materialism and vanity. His 11th solo show runs until Dec. 31 at the Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo (Small Gallery) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Call 832-3702/1125, local 1504/1505.

NEMIRANDA AT ASTORIA PLAZA. Genesis Hotel and Resort holds "Colors of Life," a painting exhibition by Angono's renowned and finest art gurus, the Nemiranda family, on Dec. 14 at the Astoria Plaza (Ortigas Business District, Pasig City). Other works of the Nemiranda family, including the recent "The Power of Two at the Pearl," are on view on Dec.20 at The Pearl Manila (corner General Luna Street and United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila). Both shows run until Jan. 6. Call 834-0370.

AMAN SANTOS AT BATAVIA. Aman Santos presents his latest collection of oil-on-canvas paintings until Dec. 26 at the Batavia Coffeehouse (1818 Ma. Orosa St., Malate, Manila).

ART LESSON. Fernando B. Sena is holding his "Easy Art Lesson" until March 2 at the following venues: his new residence (14-A Maalalahanin St., Teacher's Village, QC), 9-11:30 a.m. every Thursday, and at the Philippine Medical Women's Association (corner V. Luna Road and Malakas Street, QC), 9-11:30 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Call 924-6425 or 925-8801.

WORKSHOP. Faber-Castell is holding free art workshops for elementary pupils in selected schools in Metro Manila. The workshops will be facilitated by noted visual artist Fernando Sena and Prof. Deon Nacario of the College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Santo Tomas. Workshop schedule: Coloring contests at Dusit Hotel until Dec. 23; the University of the Philippines Vargas Museum on Dec. 12; the Tower Club at Philam Dec. 15 and 22; and the St. Francis School on Dec. 20. A workshop on "Art Expressions on Musical Impressions" is also scheduled on Dec. 15 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Call 361-7391.



ARTIST Malang held a sold-out show at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City recently. Curated by Ophelia Manalac Dee of Gallery 828, the show was a hit. The artist is shown here with the Davao press.

Conqueror logo winners named

ARJO Wiggins, makers of the world-famous Conqueror specialty paper, together with its local distributor Star Paper Corp., recently named the winners of the 4th Conqueror Logo Design Competition.

Marvin Pedro of FCB Bozelie Worldwide was named grand prizewinner. Ginalyn Ajunan of Tactica Advertising and Reynaldo delos Reyes of Brand Asia were the first and second runners-up, respectively. Star Paper general manager Romeo Jacinto, Arjo Wiggins' Southeast Asia and South Asia regional manager Nick Mason and Nemesio R. Miranda awarded Marvin a check worth P60,000 and a trophy. The runners-up each took home P15,000 and a plaque.

The winning entry features a man on top of a mountain, and a rising sun that shines brightly in the background, rendered in the colors of the Philippine flag—red, white and blue, with yellow and black. According to the rationale, "The sun signifies the conquering spirit of the Filipino. The mountain symbolizes the many different crises that have been overcome by the Filipinos. The man represents the victorious Filipino conqueror."

PLDT directory cover design contest launched

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. and Directories Philippines Corp. recently launched the 2002-2003 PLDT-DPC Telephone Directory Cover 16th Visual Art National Competition, which encourages young painters to pursue their art more seriously and hone their craft to perfection by providing incentives for them through this visual art competition.

More than P300,000 is in store for the winners of the tilt and the schools that they represent. Each year, the grand prizewinning entry is featured in the Metro Manila Telephone Directory while the four remaining entries are used in PLDT's provincial directories, which are distributed in specific areas. All winning entries are displayed in different offices of DPC.

The contest is open to all fine arts students from all over the country, enroled during the school year 2001-2002.

Through the years, the PLDT-DPC Telephone Directory Cover Visual Art National Competition's themes have reflected the changing concerns of society.

This year, what is considered one of the most prestigious competitions for young artists in the Philippines carries the theme "Communication in the IT World."

"IT has opened new horizons and has contributed to the knowledge explosion worldwide. Knowledge is power, shared through effective communication, via the Worldwide Web, computers talking to each other and other means of voice and data transmission," says DPC president Jose Laig.

The grand prizewinner will receive P60,000 and a trophy, the second prizewinner P50,000 and a trophy; the third winner P40,000 and a plaque; the fourth prizewinner P35,000 and a plaque; the fifth winner P30,000 and a plaque. The first, second and third honorable mentions will receive plaques. All trophies and plaques awarded to the winners are designed and executed by National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon V. Abueva.

The fine arts schools represented by the winners will also receive cash donations and plaques. P25,000 and a plaque will go to the grand winner's school; P20,000 and a plaque to the second; P15,000 and a plaque to the third; P10,000 and a plaque to the fourth and P8,000 and a plaque to the fifth.

"Getting published in the country's most circulated publication becomes a major motivation for the competition's talented participants to pursue their art further," says DPC director for corporate affairs Federico Amat.

Each year; the entries are judged by the country's most respected and well-known artists. The Artists Association of the Philippines Foundation Inc., which also provides technical expertise during the competition and also curates the exhibitions, chooses these artists.

Call 889-8601/8965.

Filipino artist conquers sunny California

(From page D1)

media (ceramic and porcelain, paintings and drawings) as Jenny Bulthuis, Jimmy Ong, Lina Nie, Sun Wuk Kim, Marco Szero, Water Poon, Weiliang Zhao and Yi Kai.

Veneracion had previously brought along a number of his works for evaluation and possible booking in Southern California galleries where he and his wife had opted to stay. Having submitted some pieces to the former train station-turned gallery a month, he was, in time, informed of the good news. And the excitement was enough to spur him into creative outbursts as he began to work on new pieces even as he faced a seemingly unending period of museum tours, socializing with relatives, and meeting new friends in the city teeming with Pinoys.

Highlight

The piece de resistance of the Bergamot show was a 1987 piece by the artist, "Luzviminda," a 5'X 6' oil and acrylic, which shows two human forms locked in mortal combat while around them are three women in various poses, an allusion to the three regions of the country still deeply fragmented and divided in our time. Veneracion had some new pieces to show, of course, all done in his trademark style, having emerged as a leading abstractionist in the '70s who had ventured into expressionism, avant-garde and pop imagery.

Another show at the City Gallery (3165 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles) followed on Nov. 3, when the entire nation was embroiled in the war against terror. The war notwithstanding, the show titled "Heck Final" was participated in by emerging artists from around the world, including, of course, our very own Veneracion, who held his own in the face of such distinguished company.

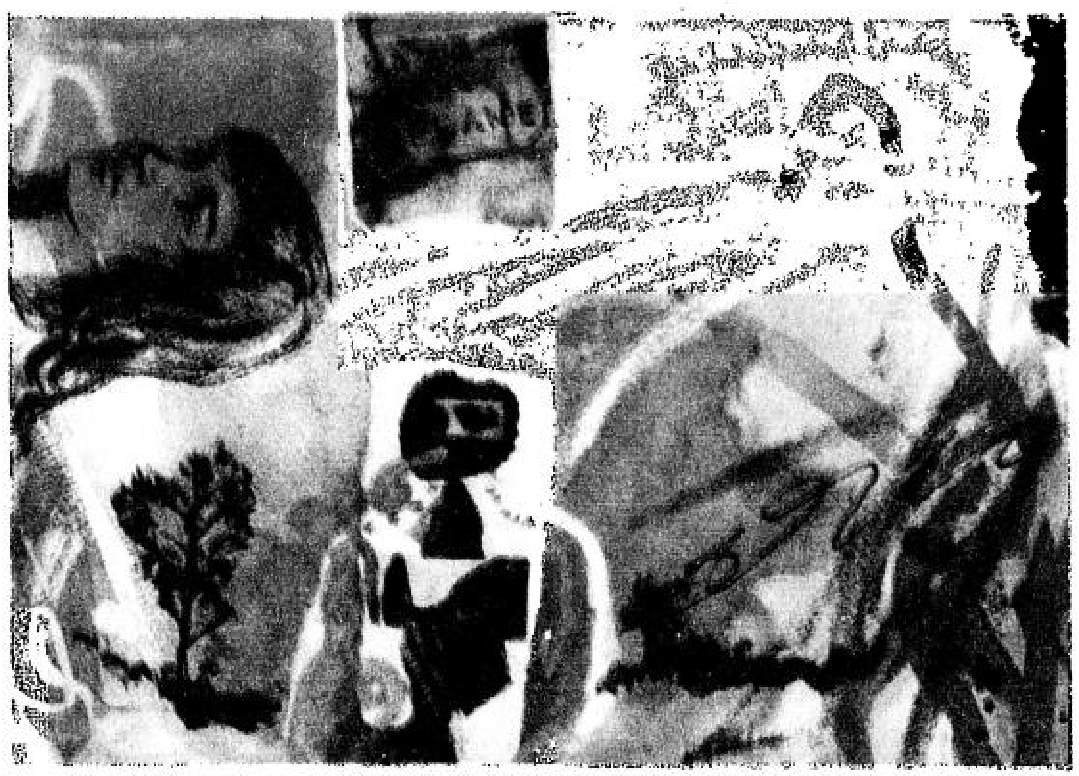
Toast

Veneracion had six works in the exhibit of paintings and sculpture, which were done in the course of his California sojourn, as well as a few others completed last year. The California series he calls "Venice Beach," acrylics on canvas all, is a toast to the effervescent spirit of this famous beach resort in L.A., where artists of all stripes soak in all-year round. These works are aptly modernist in treatment, offering a rich, diverse view of the unending fun and frolic that characterize the milieu of this quaint freedom-loving district. There are musicians, promenaders, roller skaters, sun bathers and other familiar habitues indulging in the heady pleasures all offered by the place.

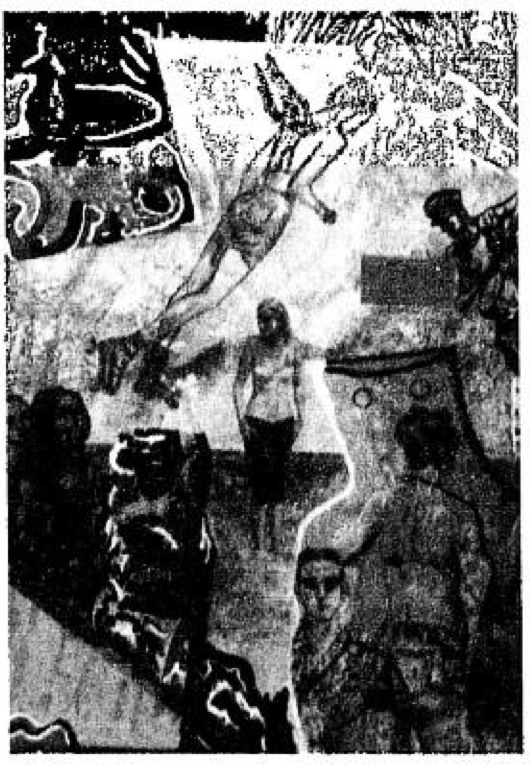
An earlier work, with a strong ecological theme, is called "Save Our Planet," in mixed media, which shows, in a telling manner, the slow and painful death of our planet as a result of apathy, greed and ignorance. Through his characteristic layering of images, Veneracion makes heavy use of calligraphic signs, collage techniques and the disintegration of imagery to posit his theory about how people must change if it is survive the continuing onslaught on the planet's existence.

Finally back home, Veneracion, still reeling from the heady days of his California sojourn, has gone back to work. Expect the unexpected from the artist whose worldview has become all the more expansive and expressive, but still retaining his unique Filipino identity.

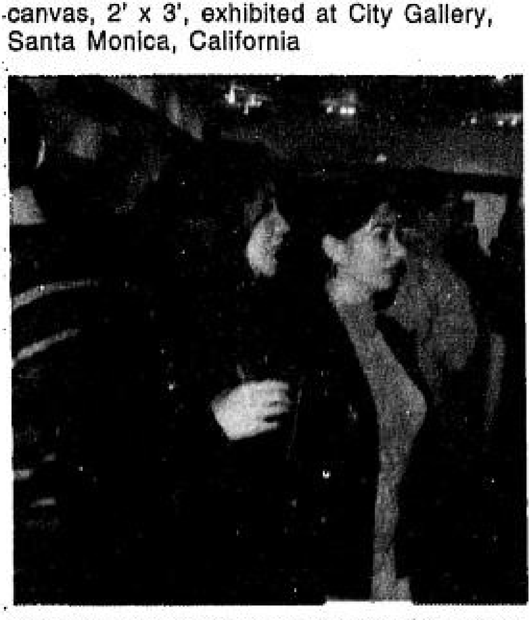
ARTIST Roy Veneracion. In the background is his 1981 painting, "Conquest of Filipinas II," acrylic on canvas, 3 1/2' x 8'



"SAVE Our Planet," 2000, mixed media, 12" x 16", City Gallery, Santa Monica, California



"VENICE Bench II," 2001, acrylic on canvas, 2' x 3', exhibited at City Gallery, Santa Monica, California



THE LARGE crowd at the opening of the group show at City Gallery with Veneracion's wife Susan (left) and daughter Rachel beside her

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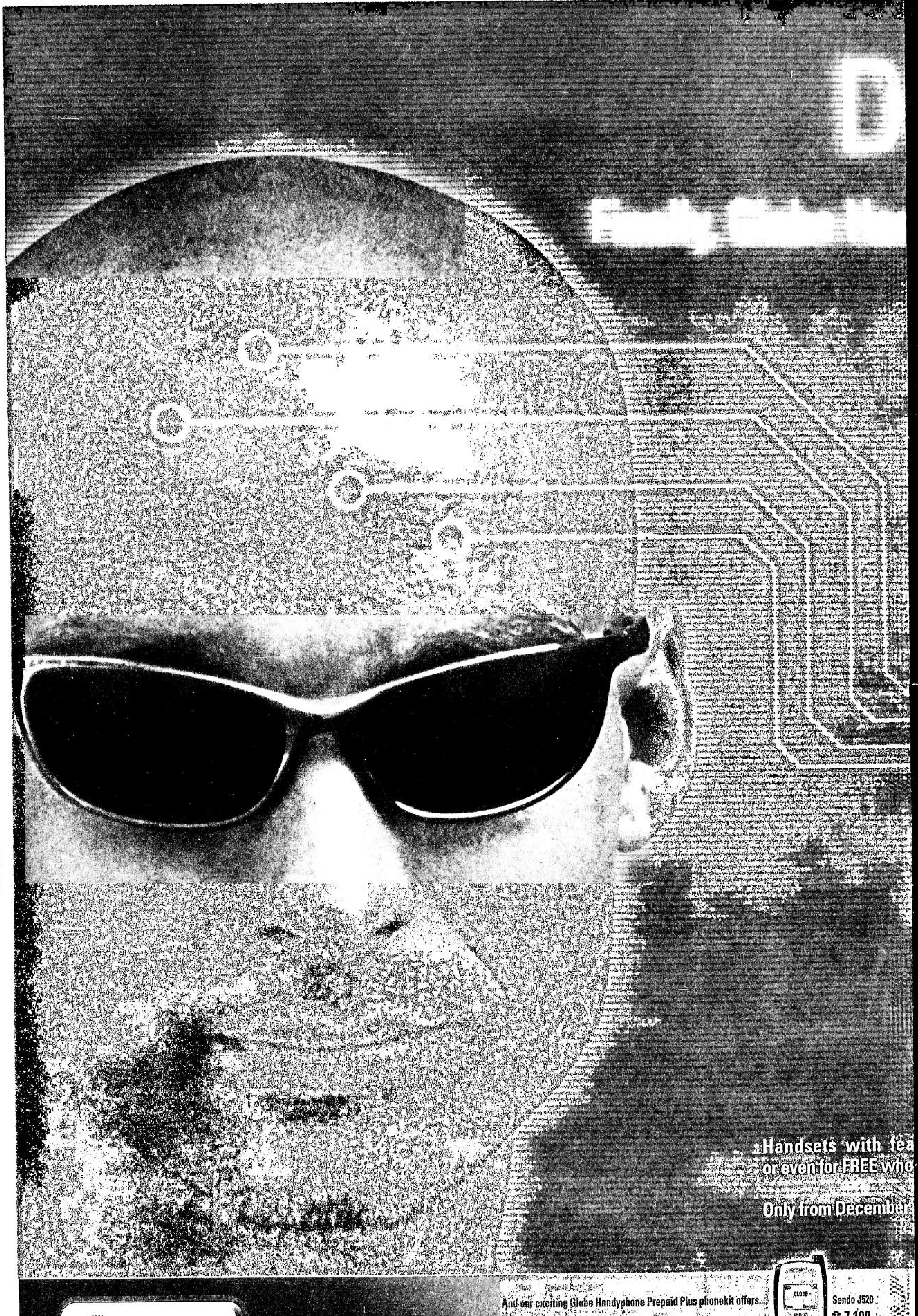

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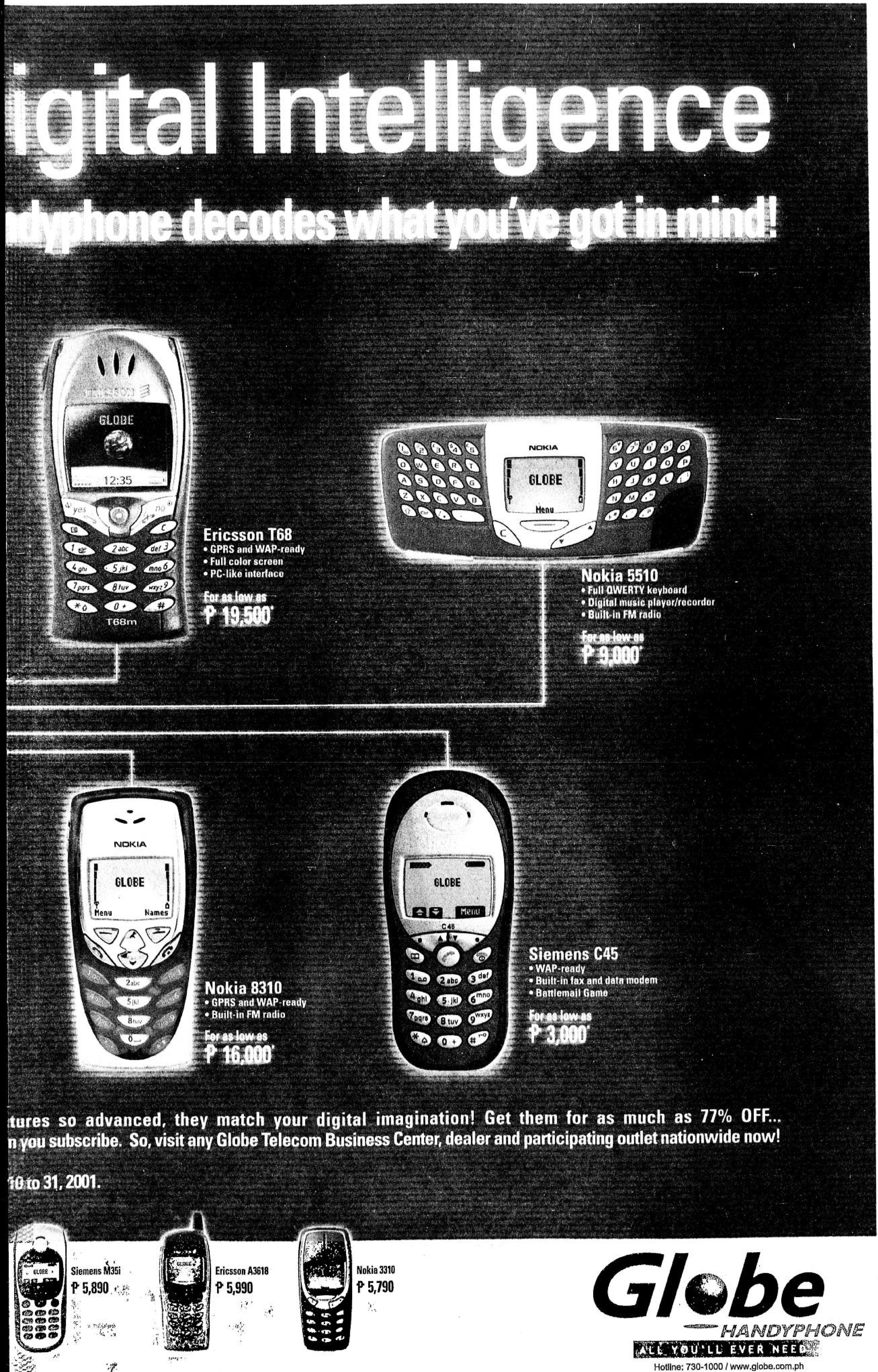

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FENG SHUI IN ART

Returning to a childhood love

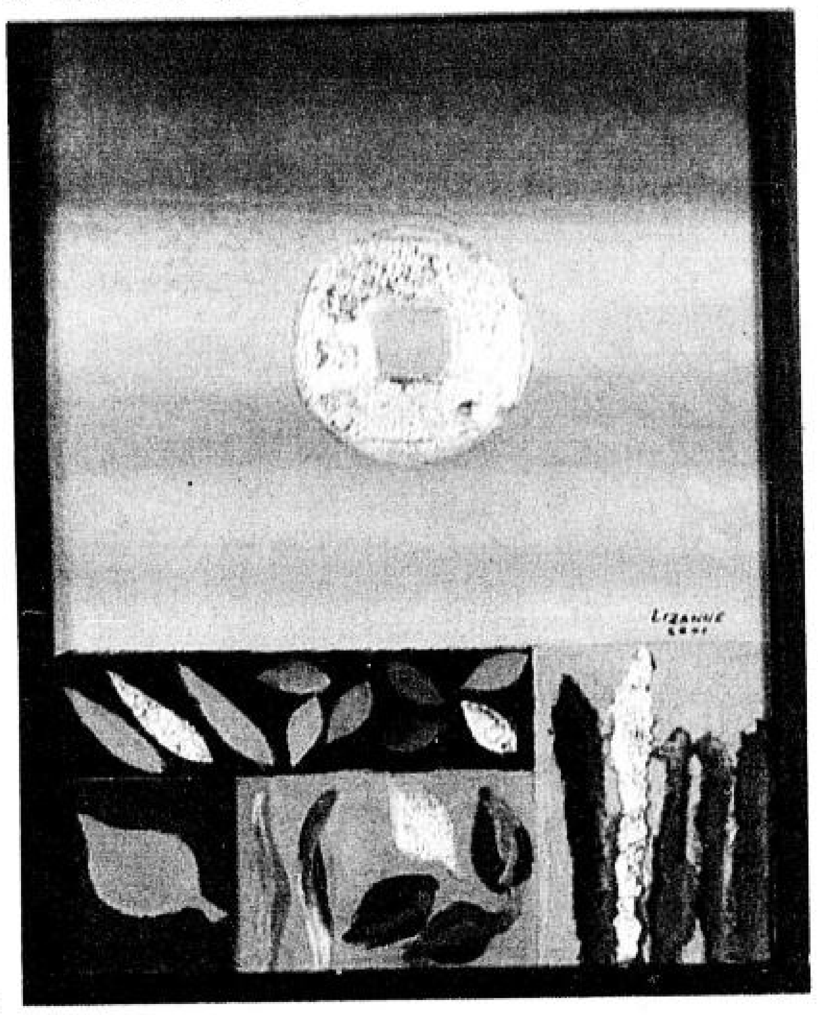
By Karina Africa Bolasco

AN UNUSUAL art exhibit opened recently at the Fontana Resort and Country Club. Seventy paintings, in watercolor and in sizes of 14x18", 12x16" and 15x15", not only capture the colors, shapes and textures of the elements—metal, wood, fire, water, earth—but more distinctly all have a rendering of a Chinese ancient coin, much like a motif, either as sun or moon on water or sky, as the earth's core or that of leaves whirling, as a design on a vestment or a door.

The paintings, cleverly done, are by Lizanne C. Uychaco, Globe Telecom's VP for retail operations and centers management. No doubt she is one who engages both the right and left sides of her brain.

While the exhibit was being set up, 15 paintings were immediately reserved and sold to the resort's guests.

LIZANNE C. Uychaco,



The popular appeal of the paintings lies in the good aura the ancient coin exudes. Eclectic Pinoys (Gilda Fernando refers to our culture as *halo-halo*) who are devout Catholics also pay attention to Feng Shui when they build homes, offices, restaurants, groceries, etc. They seriously take a *bagua*, which is a template or map that shows how chi (energy) flows in our lives, when they plan to build. A house is basically divided into nine areas, though *bagua* means eight, as the ninth corresponds to health. Traditionally this is open space with more than proper ventilation. The eight corresponds to career, relationship, ancestors, wealth, benefactors, children, knowledge and fame. It no longer shocks us when we hear stories of feng shui taken to absurd lengths, as tearing down a house and building all over again to ensure good luck and fortune. We know too it is not only Tsinoys who practice it.

Element

The buyers who know they're not only Aquarian or Piscean but also that they're a Dragon or a Monkey, must also know their element is water or fire. So they choose a painting of their element they can hang in the area of the house that will best move the flow of the energy.

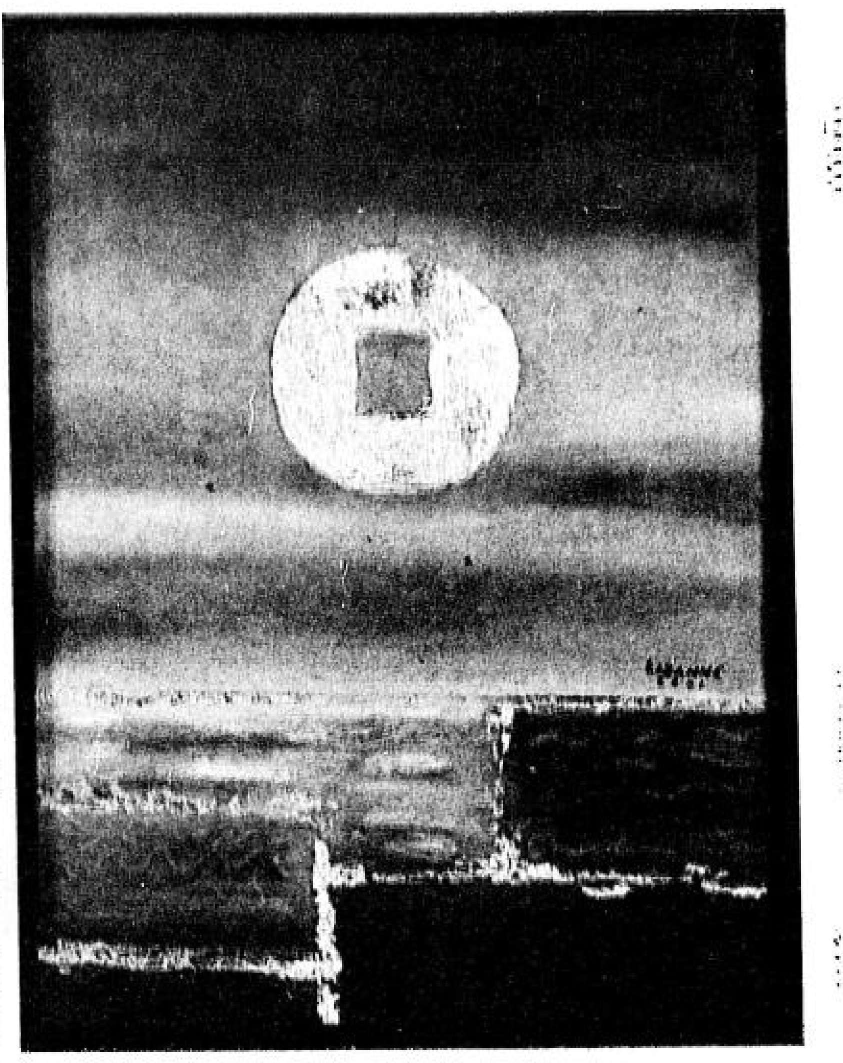
I am not much into feng shui and don't have a working understanding of it, but many others do and see no harm in following its prescriptions.

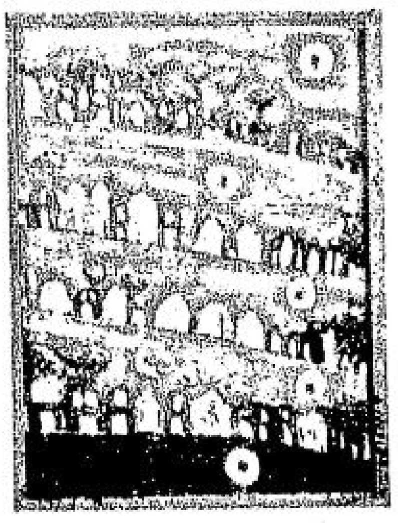
Lizanne's series of paintings, by the way they're going fast, tell us so. Those of exuberant earth colors sold out first.

I remember the story of the coin. Lizanne got very sick when she was 5 years old. Her mother brought her to a Chinese temple in Pasay where she was encouraged to stay for a week to recuperate. At the end of that recovery, the Buddhist monk gifted her with an ancient Chinese coin to protect her. She has worn that coin as pendant since, and cherished it as her lucky charm. When it eroded from sweat and the elements, and thinned out some 20 years ago, her mother replaced it with another, also from the same temple. She is never without it.

Kind

While life has not exactly been without its usual ups and downs, it has really been kind to her. Her career path is enviable. From neophyting as a technical writer at Digital Equipment Corp. (her first job after graduation), she became assistant to the president in a year's time. She moved to Delgado Brothers Corp./Transnational Diversified Group and stayed for 13 years. In 1992, she was hired by the Kuok Group as marketing and operations consultant, and was eventually asked to join it fulltime, assisting CEO Rufo Colayco in monitoring performance and review of Kuok Philippine operations including the Shangri-La Hotels and the shopping mall.





It was when she took on the operation of Caylabne Bay Resort that her innate creativity came to the fore, almost with a vengeance, having been repressed so to speak, during all those years of financial graphs and profit and loss reports.

Almost single-handedly she turned the business around. This was when she returned to a childhood love: painting. Perhaps the seascape, the horizon at sunset, the serenity inspired her. She hosted painters and other artists and let herself be coaxed into joining them at times.

Her first seascapes were hung on the walls of Caylabne's rooms, lounges and restaurants where people took notice and asked to buy them. Geny Lopez insisted on buying one of her watercolor townscapes but being a valued client, Lizanne decided to give it to him as a gift. Then she joined artists' group exhibits at Ayala Museum and had her own two solo exhibits—first in 1994 and the second in 1998, both at Ayala Museum. Her early works of seascapes, townscapes, flowers, still life and the exciting mixed media collages I saw at her second show were impressive for one who just began professionally. Because her paintings were not for sale, she did not have a gauge of how the public, excluding her friends and associates, received her art. Besides she thought these early works were not any different from all the others, though I (not an art critic, of course) personally find them bearing a charm all their own.

She had to find a distinguishing mark.

About three years ago, she thought of sharing the coin's luck and started working on these paintings now on exhibit. Her marketing instincts did not fail her; she found a niche for her art.

Lizanne's works will be exhibited at the 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall this December, and at the Rockwell Club in cooperation with the Lopez Museum in January 2002.

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MOLANO (third from left) with Llita Logarta, Rits Kalaw Ledesma and Susan Calo Medina

Celia Molano's vibrations of light

IN 1988, jewelry artist Celia Molano exhibited her collection of jewelry beads at the Luz Gallery. These were excavated beads intertwined with old gold and precious stones.

After putting up exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum, Manila Hotel and museums abroad, Molano happily comes back to Luz Gallery in an exhibit that runs until Jan. 6. She calls it "coming full circle," inspired as she is by the sculpture pieces of National Artist Arturo Luz himself.

One hundred pieces of different designs shall be set up in shelves and open-glass containers. The pieces this time will be sold at more affordable prices.

Molano's path into jewelry making has been laid out for her since she was 8 years old when her grandmother would give her beads to play with.

And so it was that Celia concentrated on the study of beads from Africa, Mesopotamia, Turkey, Damascus (where the ancestors of her husband Jose Molano are from), Brazil, Indonesia and India.

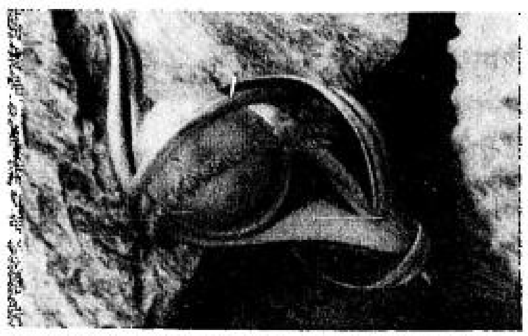
Somehow, Molano's designs carry vibrations of light, so people feel joy in wearing them, whether a necklace or earrings or bracelets.

A fine arts graduate from the Philippine Women's University, Molano also paints, but she has focused on the making of jewelry pieces that are not only attractive, but bewitching.

Titled "Timeless Treasures," the exhibit is a must-see, if only to find out Molano's latest designs.

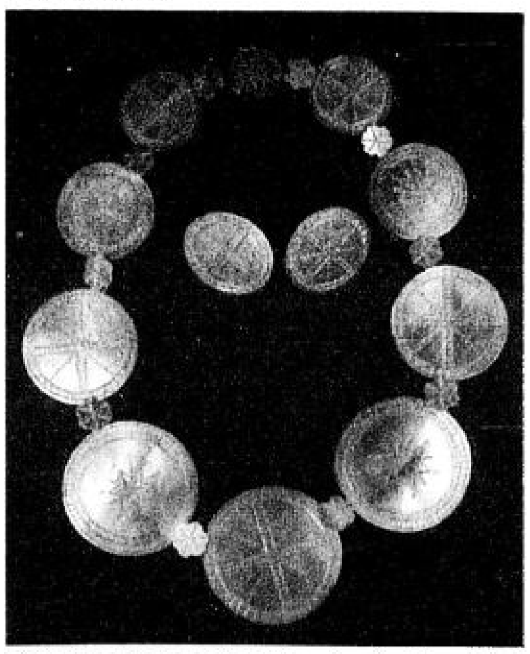
There is something different about her creations. They exude ethnic appeal with their colorful glass beads and tribal designs, and yet they are made specifically to suit the different styles of modern women.

Even men can wear her bracelet designs. In the new collection of gold and silver her bracelets are androgynous in design. Molano's designs are moving, forever adjusting to the changing times.



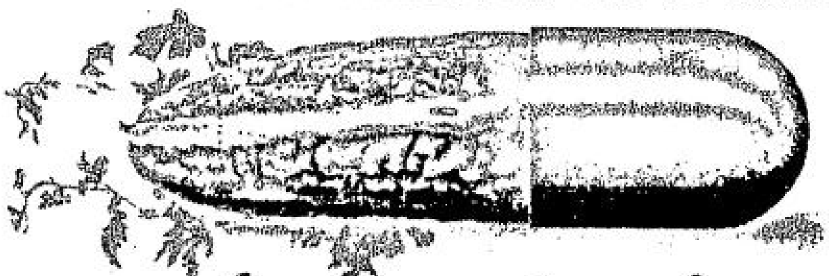
BROOCH made of gold, South Sea pearl and diamonds

CELIA Molano



GOLD necklace and earrings inspired by mother-of-pearl ornaments

Nature's Answer To Diabetes



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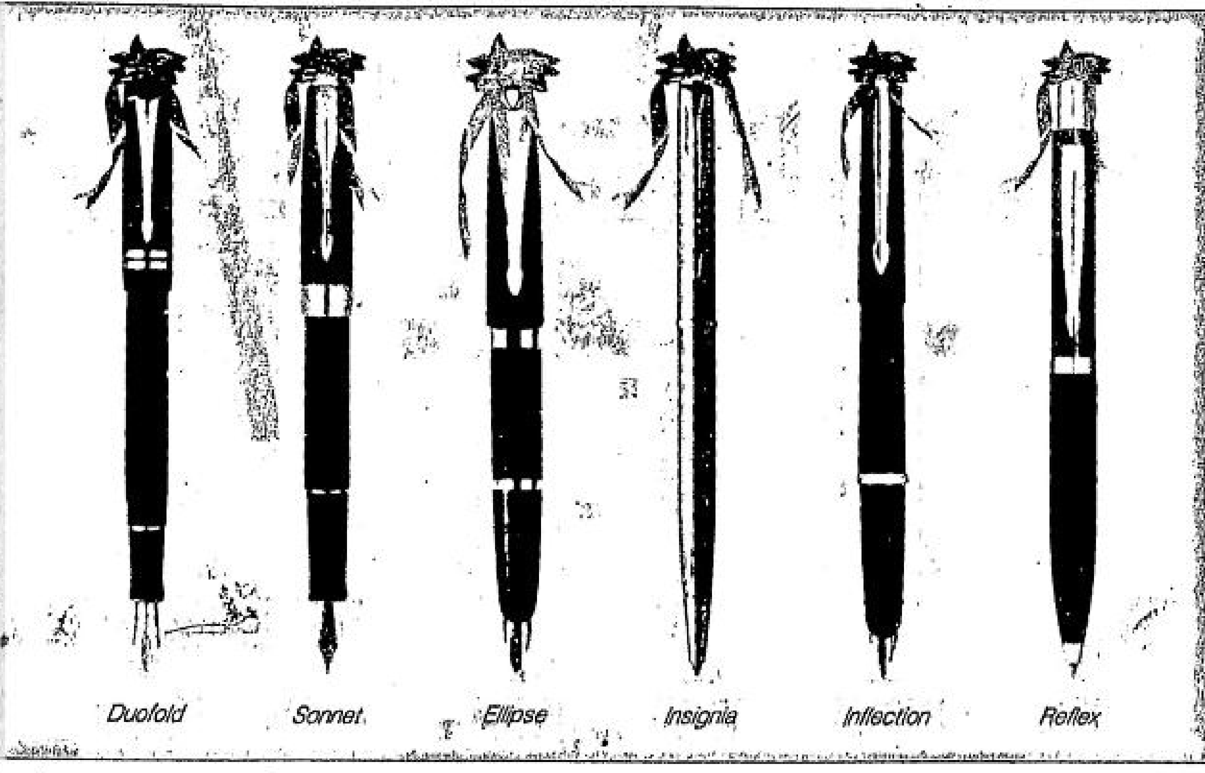

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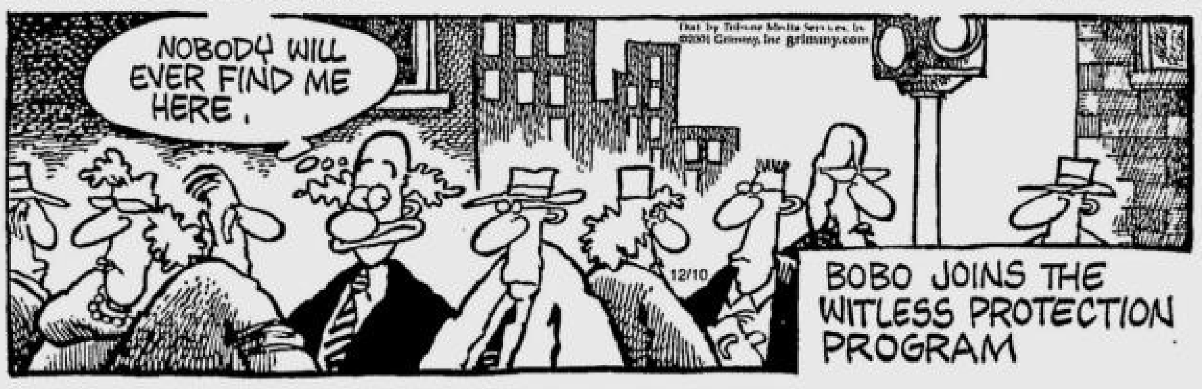
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


NOBODY WILL EVER FIND ME HERE.
BOBO JOINS THE WITLESS PROTECTION PROGRAM
12/10
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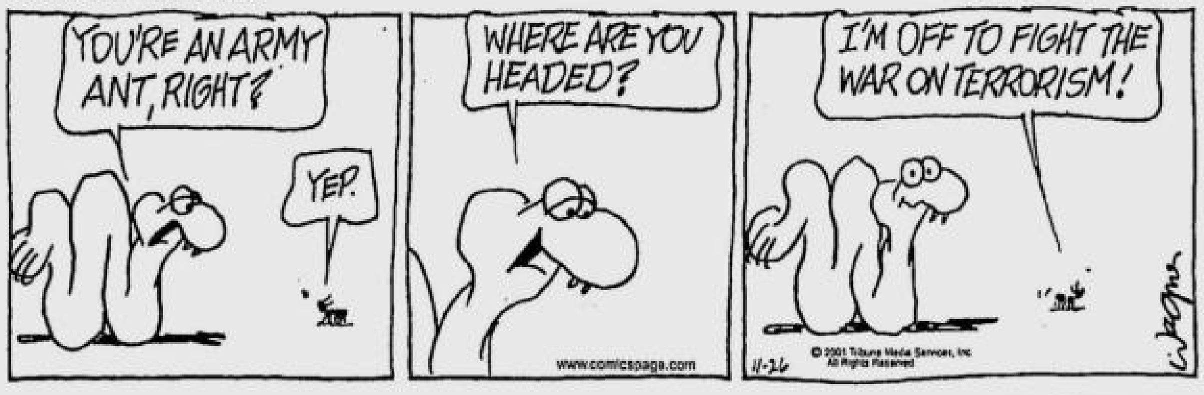
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


YOU'RE AN ARMY ANT, RIGHT?
YEP.
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?
I'M OFF TO FIGHT THE WAR ON TERRORISM!
www.comicspage.com
11-26
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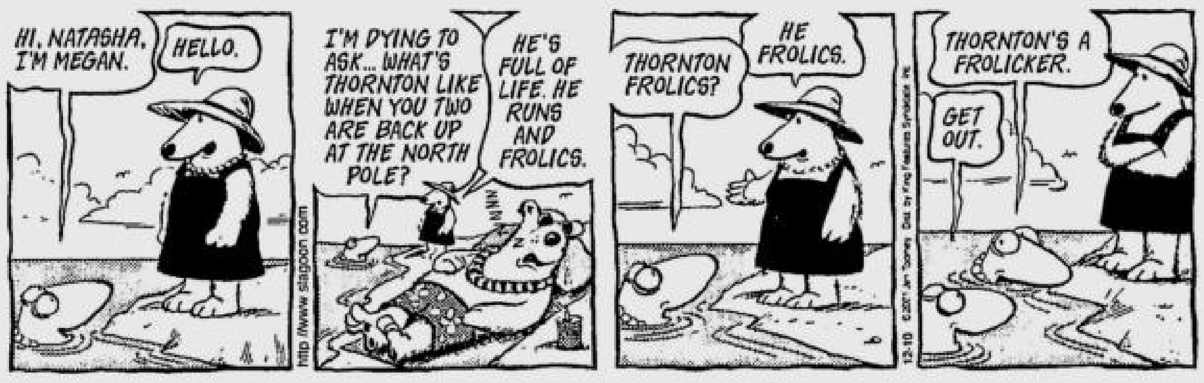
Wagner

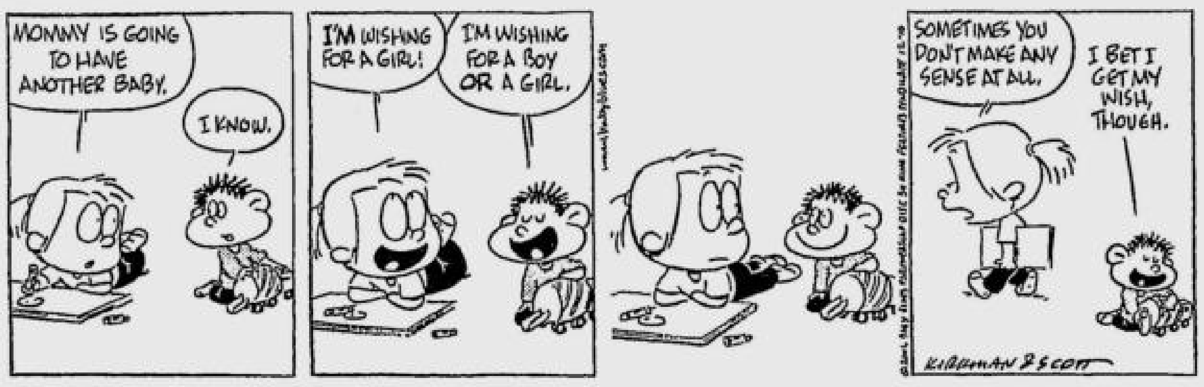
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HI, NATASHA, I'M MEGAN.
HELLO.
I'M DYING TO ASK... WHAT'S THORNTON LIKE WHEN YOU TWO ARE BACK UP AT THE NORTH POLE?
HE'S FULL OF LIFE. HE RUNS AND FROLICS.
THORNTON FROLICS?
HE FROLICS.
THORNTON'S A FROLICKER.
GET OUT.
http://www.slagoon.com
12-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY IS GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER BABY.
I KNOW.
I'M WISHING FOR A GIRL!
I'M WISHING FOR A BOY OR A GIRL.
www.babyblues.com
SOMETIMES YOU DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE AT ALL.
I BET I GET MY WISH, THOUGH.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Susan Dey, Maharaj Ji, Nia Peeples

Happy Birthday: You can have it all as long as you don't go overboard. Restrict yourself and focus on what's important and you will see your success unfold in front of you this year. Just when everyone else appears to be floundering you will get the green light and move into high gear. It's time to take control of your life. Focus on yourself and your goals. If you are persistent nothing will stand in your way. Your numbers are 2,10,23,34,41,44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lend a helping hand and you'll feel good about yourself. You can make life easier for an older member of your family just by giving a little of your time. Go over important papers and discuss options.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be sure to do everything that you promised or someone may not be too happy with you. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to spending time by your self. You are best to listen and observe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can get so much more done if you work at home today. A problem with one of your co-workers is likely. You will have trouble convincing others to accept your ideas so keep them to yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You really need to enjoy some entertainment. You can have a great time if you socialize with friends. Prosperity is likely if you get involved in creative projects that could turn into moneymaking ventures.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Being attentive will make a big difference today. Take time to listen to a problem someone facing. You may not be able to help but your support is enough .

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep any knowledge you are privy to a secret. If the wrong person gets hold of this information it could be bad news for you. You will be misinterpreted if you get involved in other people's problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Advancement will be knocking on your door if you are confident and you talk to your superior about your ideas and your intentions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be feeling neglected, unloved and out of sorts today. Your passionate nature may result in jealousy if someone you care for has been too busy to take care of your needs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be secretive about your thoughts and your whereabouts. If you are trying to plan a surprise you will have to limit the number of people you confide in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ambition is showing and you'll have to act fast before someone is on to you. You're ready to take action so proceed with speed. You will have the opportunity to make career changes.

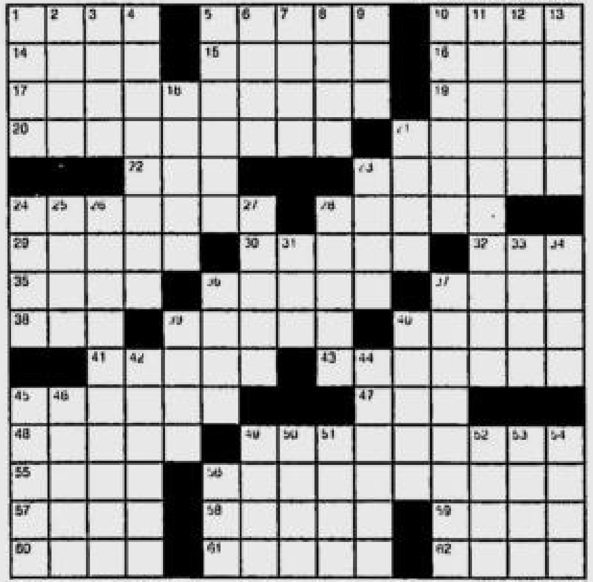
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have to make a choice. Business trips will be productive as long as you keep important information to yourself. Your business savvy will help you win the support you are looking for.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to step back and let others do the heavy work. You need to relax, take a breather and learn to let others do for you. It may be the festive season but that is no reason to over-indulge. Be good to yourself for a change.

Birthday Baby: You are bright eyed and full of vim and vigor. You are ready and willing to try new things and adapt to whatever scenario you find yourself in. You are quick, intelligent and outgoing. Popularity will be yours.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

10/25/01

ACROSS
1 Walk through water
5 Heathen
10 USC rival
14 Author Haley
15 "Dallas" matriarch
16 Sign gas
17 Football player's restraint?
19 Tight
20 Mental disorders
21 Green strokes
22 Veteran's abbr.
23 Woods
24 Lowers in value
28 Slender candle
29 Make happy
30 Persian sounds
32 Overweight
35 Medieval club
36 Eagle's pad
37 Perforation
38 Sort
39 Dunne or Cara
40 Heartbeat
41 Sharpened
43 Glashow or Leonard
45 Anne and Barney
47 Segment of history
48 "Peanuts" regular
49 Force from power
55 Track numbers
56 Football player's detention building?
57 Curved molding
58 Actor Davis
59 __ podrida
60 Beatty film
61 River frolicker
62 Farm laborer

DOWN
1 Insect with a stinger
2 How sad!
3 Challenge
4 Denounce
5 Mescal
6 Priest's robes
7 Kind of club
8 Is not well
9 Snare
10 Doubtful
11 Football player's spread?
12 Oafs
13 Feeling of apprehension
18 The closer ones
21 Sodas
23 Get along
24 Moore of "Indecent Proposal"
25 Israeli airline
26 Like some football player's compliments?
27 Pace
28 Attempts
31 Samovar
33 Too
34 Young adult
36 War god
37 Fad of the 1950s
39 Pen fills
40 Former capital of Scotland
42 Burdens
44 Cowboy, at times
45 Elevator stop
46 Crest
49 Give the boot
50 Far-reaching
51 New York state canal
52 Thomas Arne's "__ Britannia"
53 Capital of Norway
54 Disengage from a habit
56 Moo __ gai pan

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

A	B	A	S	E		S	T	A	R		A	S	P	S
S	A	L	A	D		L	O	G	E		C	H	I	C
I	R	A	N	I		E	R	O	S		R	A	T	E
S	E	N	D	S		E	I	G	H	T	I	R	O	N
			W	O	R	K			I	O	D	I	N	E
S	E	R	E	N	E		G	A	P	S				
O	V	I	D		A	E	O	N		S	T	E	E	L
F	A	N	G		P	R	O	N	G		H	Y	D	E
A	N	D	E	S		I	D	E	A		R	E	I	N
				A	C	E	S		G	U	E	S	T	S
P	A	S	T	R	Y			R	A	R	E			
H	O	L	E	I	N	O	N	E		S	W	A	M	P
A	R	E	A		I	D	A	S		I	O	N	I	A
S	T	E	M		C	I	T	E		N	O	T	E	D
E	A	T	S		S	N	O	W		E	D	E	N	S

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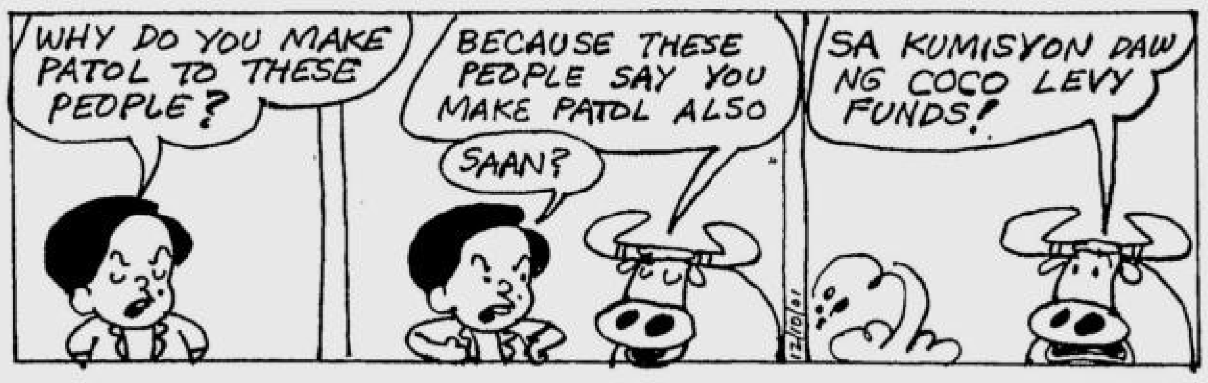
10/25/01

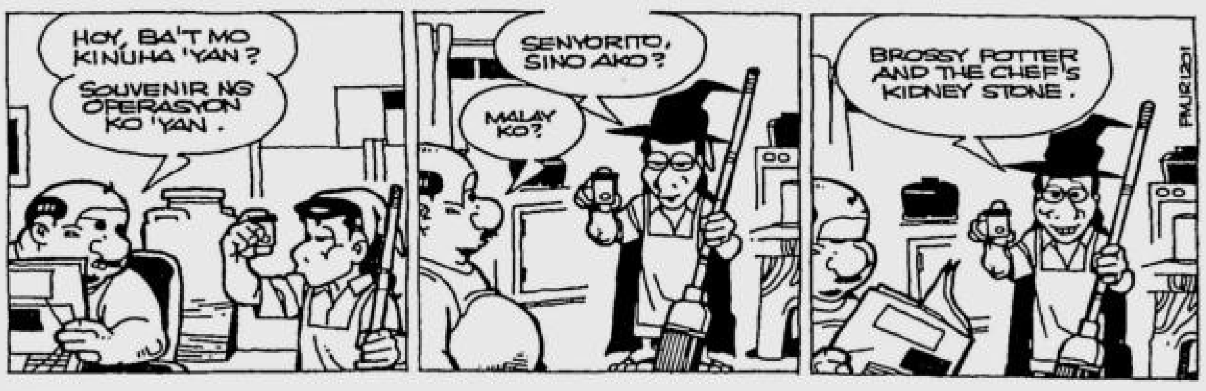
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WHY DO YOU MAKE PATOL TO THESE PEOPLE?
BECAUSE THESE PEOPLE SAY YOU MAKE PATOL ALSO
SAAN?
12/10/01
SA KUMISYON DAW NG COCO LEVY FUNDS!

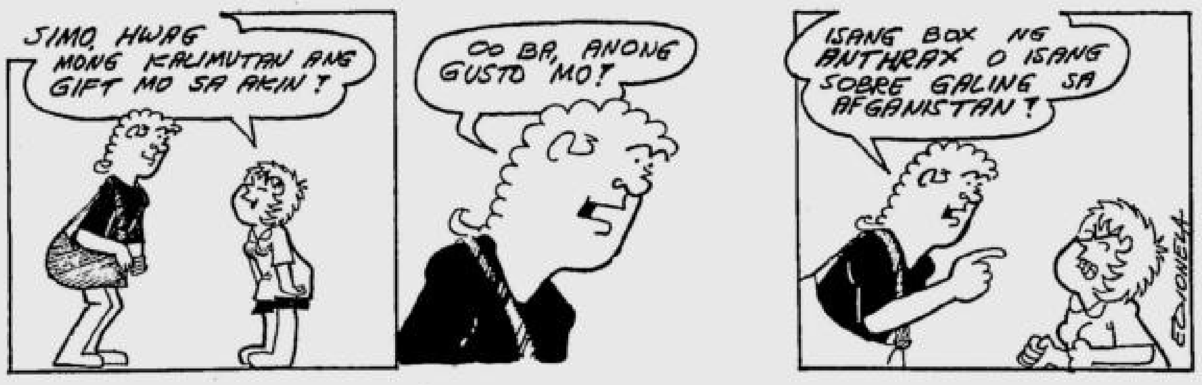
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HOY, BA'T MO KINUHA 'YAN?
SOUVENIR NG OPERASYON KO 'YAN.
SENYORITO, SINO AKO?
MALAY KO?
BROSSY POTTER AND THE CHEF'S KIDNEY STONE.
PMJR1201

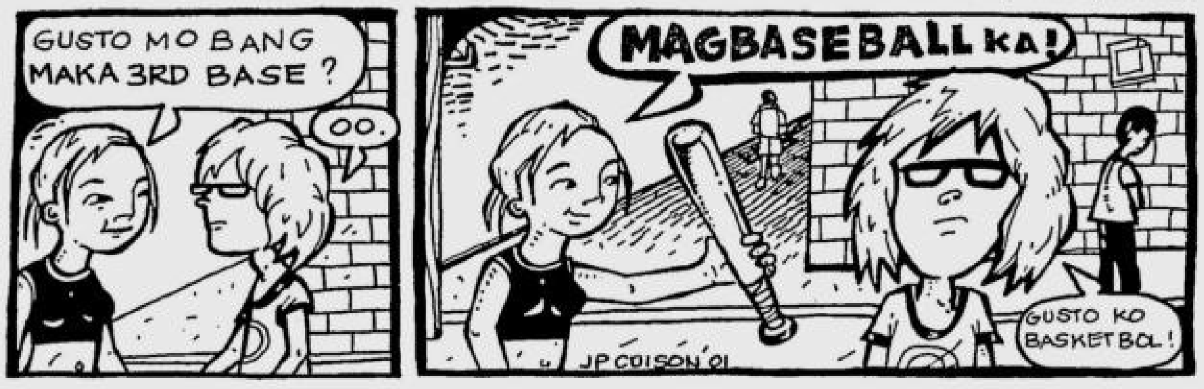
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SIMO, HWAG MONG KALIMUTAN ANG GIFT MO SA AKIN!
OO BA, ANONG GUSTO MO?
ISANG BOX NG ANTHRAX O ISANG SOBRE GALING SA AFGANISTAN!
EDIONELA

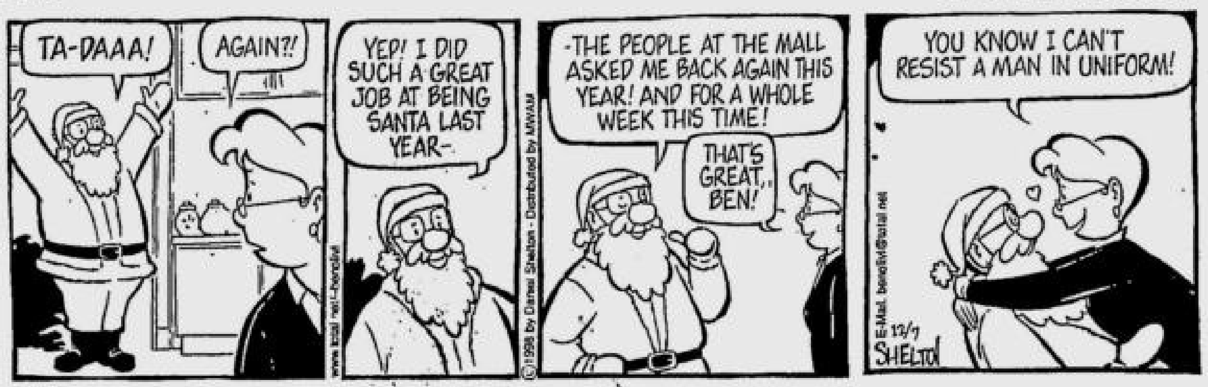
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


GUSTO MO BANG MAKA 3RD BASE?
OO.
MAGBASEBALL KA!
GUSTO KO BASKETBOL!
JP CUISON '01

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


TA-DAAA!
AGAIN?!
YEP! I DID SUCH A GREAT JOB AT BEING SANTA LAST YEAR-
-THE PEOPLE AT THE MALL ASKED ME BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR! AND FOR A WHOLE WEEK THIS TIME!
THAT'S GREAT, BEN!
YOU KNOW I CAN'T RESIST A MAN IN UNIFORM!
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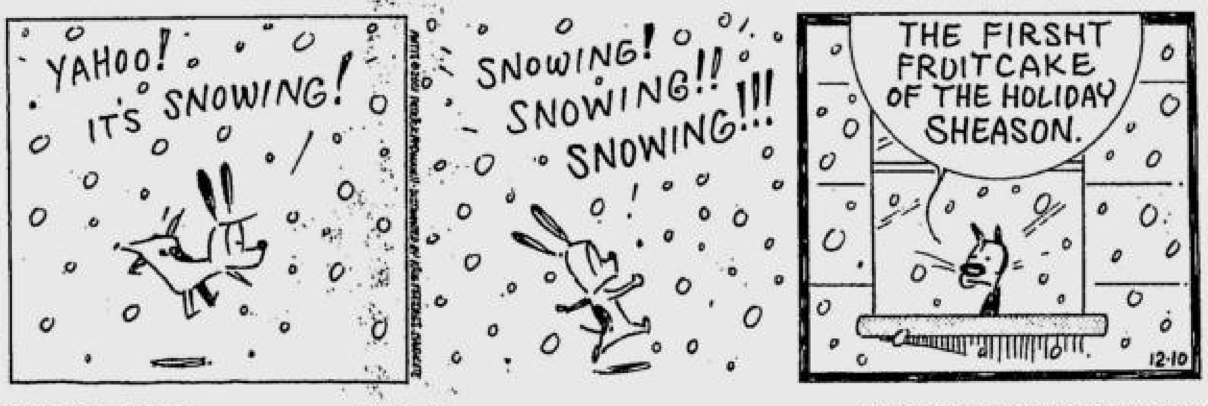
12/7
SHELTON

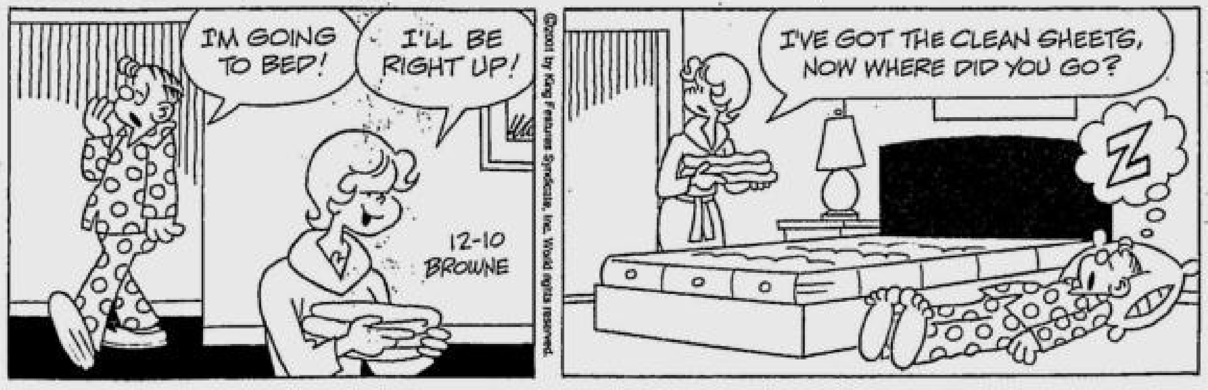
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YAHOO! IT'S SNOWING!
SNOWING! SNOWING!! SNOWING!!!
THE FIRSHT FRUITCAKE OF THE HOLIDAY SHEASON.
12-10

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M GOING TO BED!
I'LL BE RIGHT UP!
12-10
BROWNE
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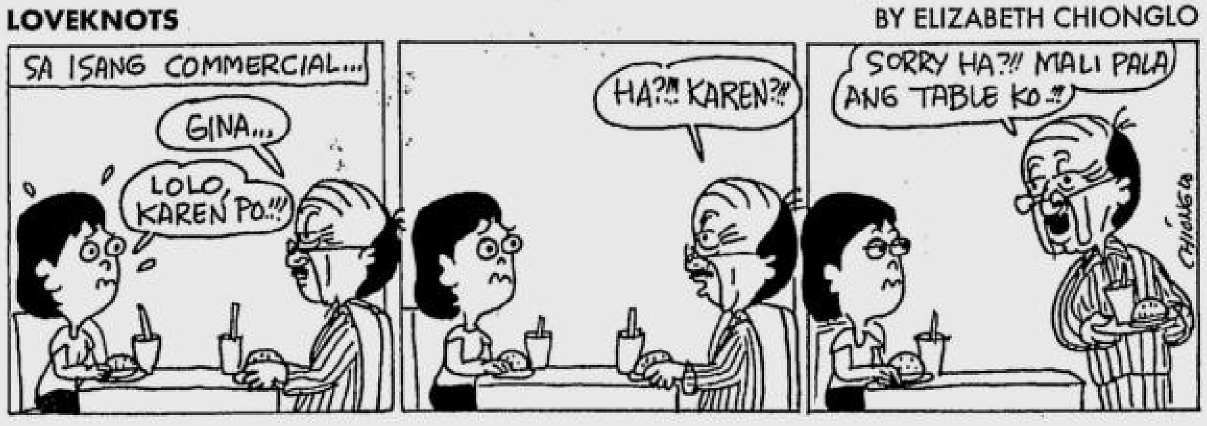
I'VE GOT THE CLEAN SHEETS, NOW WHERE DID YOU GO?
Z

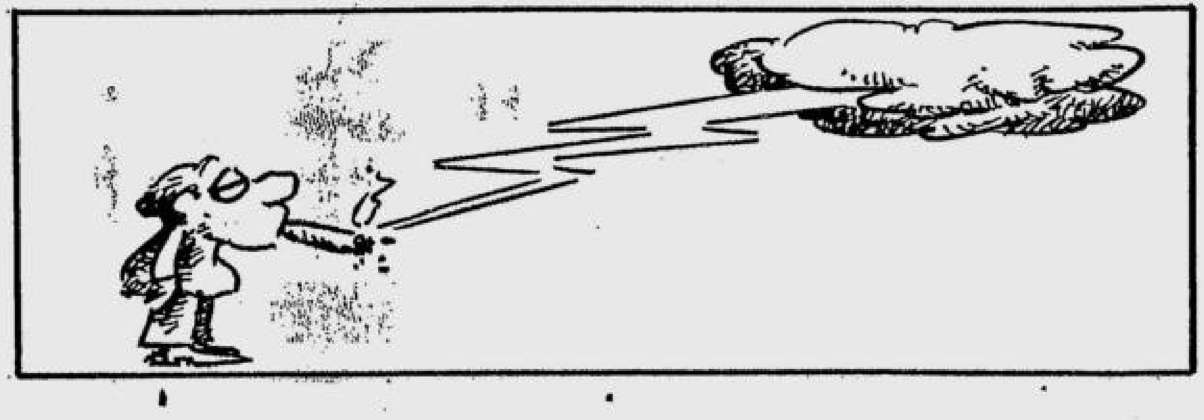
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SA ISANG COMMERCIAL...
GINA...
LOLO, KAREN PO...!!!
HA?!! KAREN?!!
SORRY HA?!! MALI PALA ANG TABLE KO..!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



HP Designjet 50ps

New graphic printers

GRAPHICS professionals working in large corporations find that despite new technologies and hardware around, staying up all night at the presses to check on the CEO's cover portrait remains a must. When the company publication is "put to bed," it is still long before the designer gets any shut-eye.

Designers often lose sleep on details like color accuracy and imaging quality. If they can convince their company to invest in a new line of Hewlett-Packard proofing solutions for the graphics industry, everything from the company publication to the print ad is nailed. To perfection, as only HP does it.

Hewlett-Packard has just released a product line of three graphic printers for improved commercial printing needs and preproof processes. The HP Designjet 10ps, 20ps and 50ps can produce in minutes what has regularly taken days to complete in the entire printing process.

"The printers achieve color consistency by recalibrating every system to the same reference state and embedding the color information in the remote proofing files," explained Anabelle Co, HP Phils. market development manager for imaging and printing solutions.

Built-in color sensors in the printers adjust the output to match the set color profile. A six-color printing system with a modular design delivers more accurate and consistent representations with each ink cartridge replaceable separately, depending on its usage. A3 sized and larger printouts can be generated at super speed.

The HP Designjet 10ps is a good solution for single to three users. Workgroup printing is suitable for the HP Designjet 20pc. The HP Designjet 50ps has built on the strengths of the 20ps with special software licensed from the Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG. The Design jet 50ps printing system is specifically designed for prepress proofing services and for reproductions needed for high-quality and fast contract proofing.

Whatever the professional need, graphic designers have always had an ally in HP. The company has also released printing solutions for small and medium business requirements, the HP Color Inkjet cp1700 and the HP Designjet cp1700d. For laser quality printing, the HP Laserjet 2200 and highly affordable HP Laserjet 1000 are the latest offerings.

The home and home office requirements can be handled by another new line, the HP Deskjet 900 series (HP Deskjet 920c, HP Deskjet 948c and HP Deskjet 960c) and HP Deskjet 656C and HP Deskjet 845C.

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BOOKMARK general manager and publisher Lory Tan with architect and INQUIRER columnist Augusto Villalon, author of "Lugar: Essays on Philippine Heritage and Architecture," donates a copy of the book to the US Library of Congress, an acquisition office in Manila of the Washington-based library, represented by Julianita Abas. "Lugar" is a collection of essays on Philippine architecture that celebrates the uniqueness of Filipino culture expressed through priceless cultural and natural heritage.

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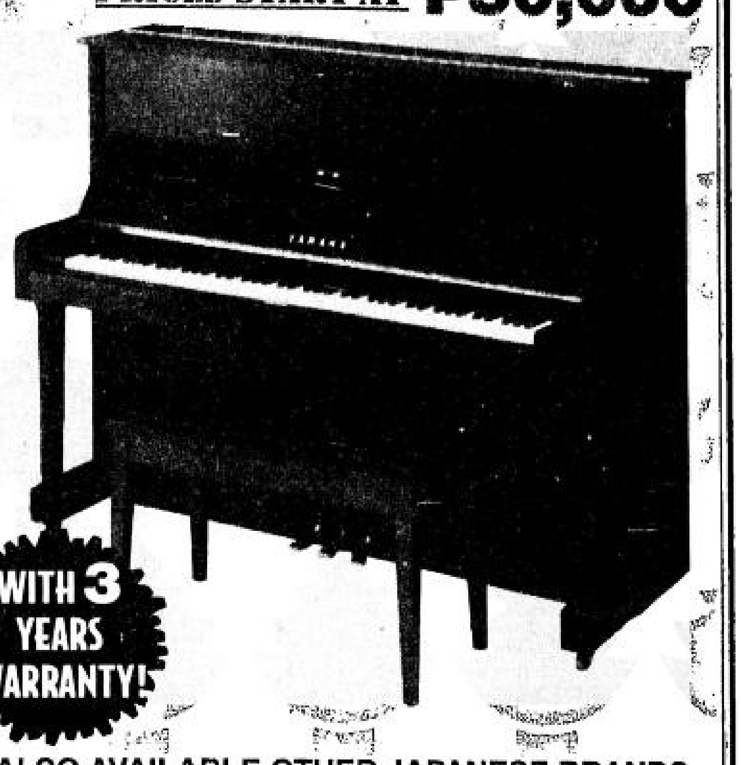

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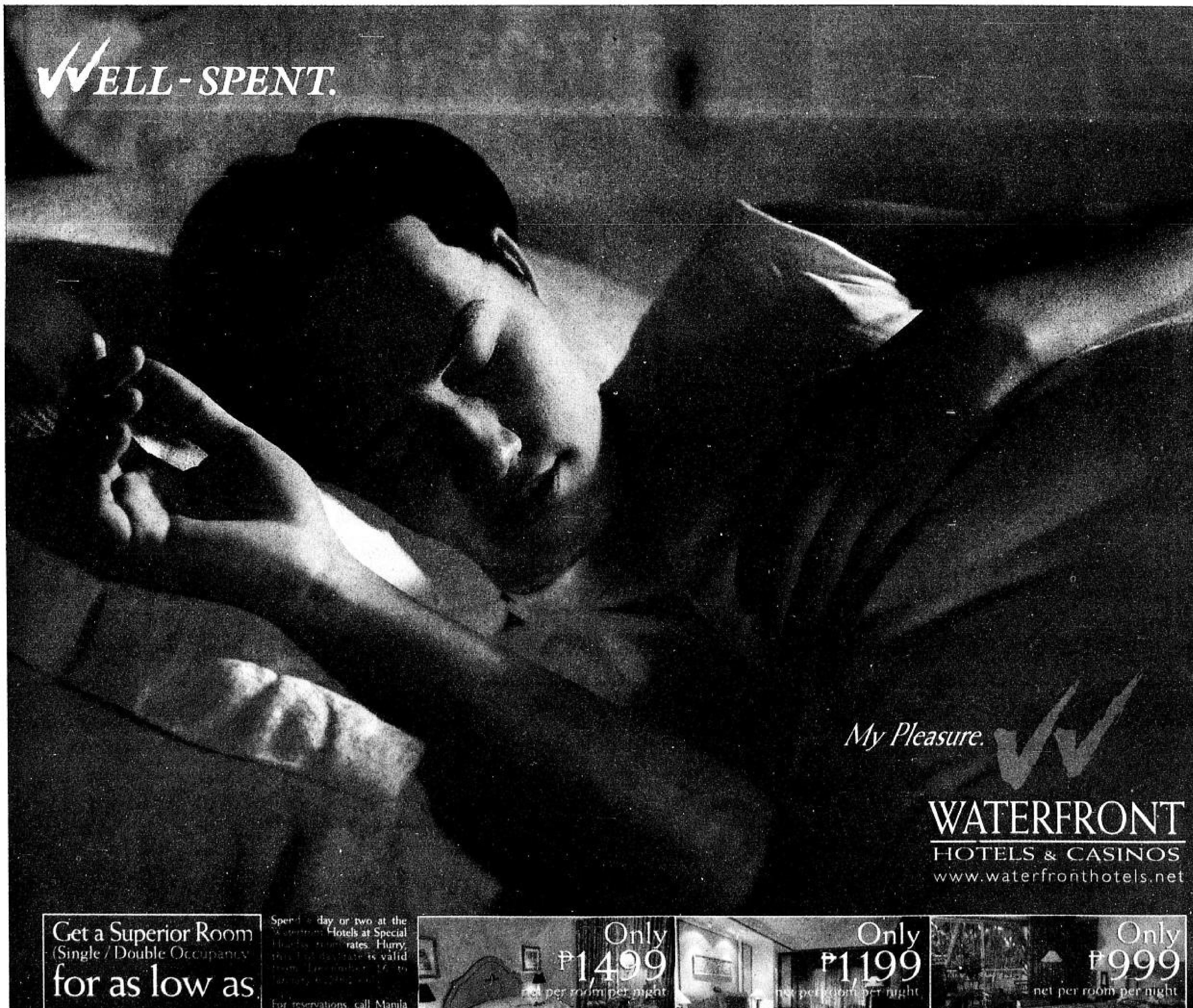
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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 2041 Series of 2001

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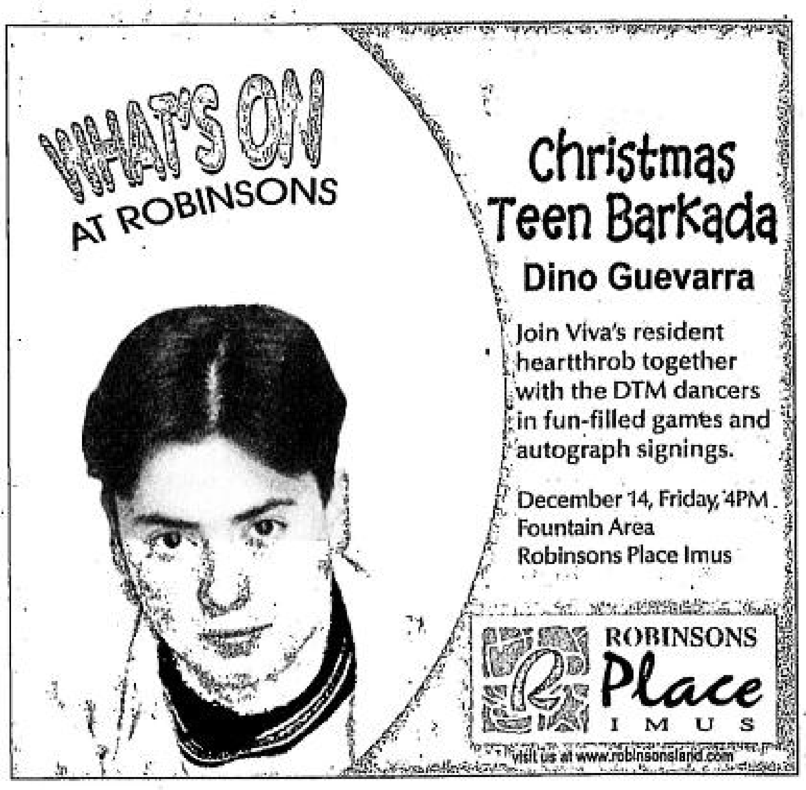
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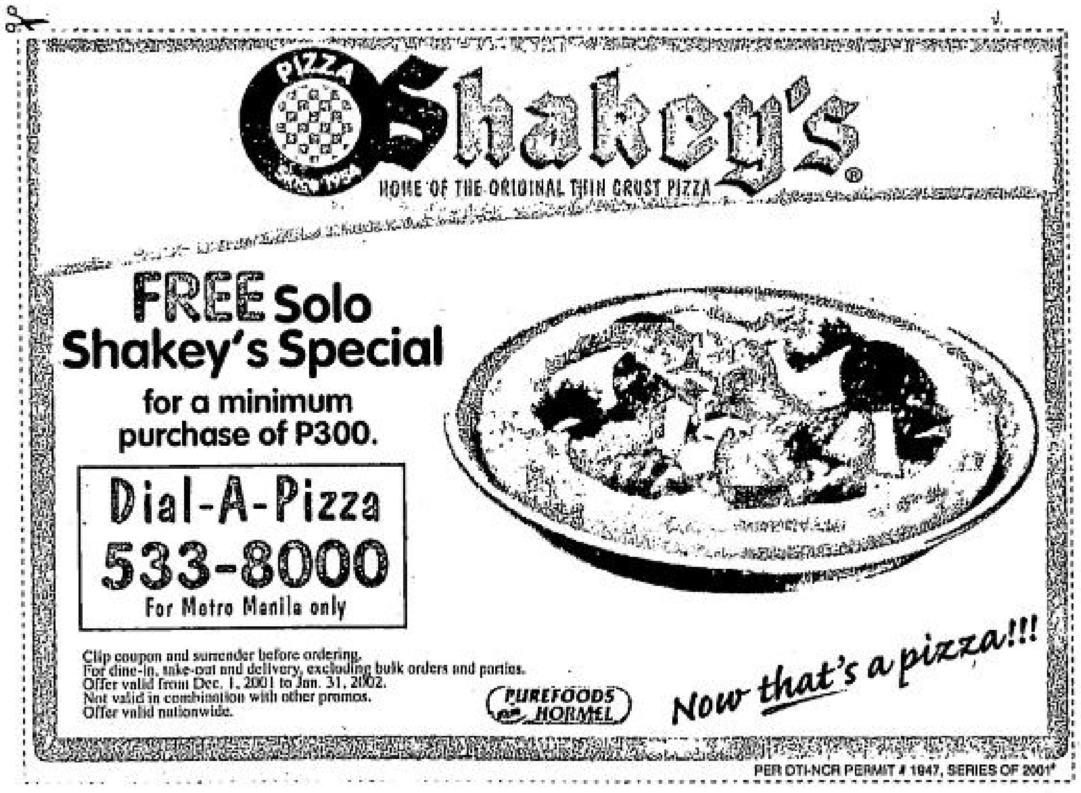
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 1947, SERIES OF 2001

Jaime Laya tackles culture and development in new book

"LETRAS y Figuras: Business in Culture, Culture in Business" by Chair Jaime C. Laya of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will be launched by Anvil Publishing Inc. tomorrow, 5 p.m., at the Courtyard of the Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala Triangle, Makati corner Ayala Avenues, Makati City.

The book is a compilation of Dr. Laya's articles and papers on culture and the arts that were written at various times and on various occasions starting from the early 1980s until the present. The final essay tackles the interface between culture and development.

The catchy title, "Letras y Figuras," is a type of Philippine painting that shows scenes of everyday life; figures are painted in such a way as to spell out the letters of a name. Together, letters and figures create something new as artists and managers work to achieve common goals.

Dr. Laya is founder and chair of Laya Mananghaya and Co., the Philippine member firm of KPMG International, one of the Big Five international professional services firms that offer audit, tax and management consultancy services. He graduated from the University of the Philippines (B.S.B.A., magna cum laude, 1957), Georgia Institute of Technology (M.S., 1960) and Stanford University (Ph.D., 1965). He is a certified public accountant who writes on culture and the arts in his spare time.

Dr. Laya is donating his royalties from the sales of the book to the Heart Center Foundation and the Dualtech Foundation. His book will be available at a special 10 percent discount on the day of the launch.

Below are excerpt's from Dr. Laya's introduction:

"A function of whatever I happened to be doing at the time, my published work has been mainly on economics, business, education, fiscal management, money and banking. I said goodbye, somewhat abruptly, to full-time government service and academe in February 1986 and founded an audit, tax and consulting firm. All these years, however, I would now and then write on culture and the arts, an endeavor I mentally classified as fun, not serious work. This anthology consists of those occasional exertions.

"There must be a storyteller's gene in people's makeup. My father never forgot the folk tales that his father told him. He retold them to me as a small boy, watched my reactions, made adjustments to my liking and eventually published them into a children's book. Being Ilocano, and since I must have been 5 or so, he didn't bring up the matter of royalties, although he did acknowledge in 'Kuwentong Bayan' my grandfather's and my contributions ('*ikinuwento ni* Telesforo Laya, *lolo*, *sinulat ni* Juan C. Laya, *anak, at pinili ni* Jaime C. Laya, *apo*'). As a young man, he submitted prize-winning short stories to Graphic and Free Press. His first novel, 'His Native Soil,' won the First (and only) Commonwealth Literary Award, given in 1940. (It won over NVM Gonzales' entry.) My mother didn't have the storyteller's gene, but she was into history and wrote a Tagalog-English vocabulary and edited my father's writings, which is close enough.

"... I also had the good fortune of having great English teachers—I remember Miss Pacheco who taught second year English at Arellano High School—who required numerous theme papers and corrected them mercilessly. At about age 9, I concluded, prematurely, that I was well-endowed with literary talent when Mrs. Escandor read before the class a magnum opus on my (imaginary) pet goldfish. The feeling was reinforced some years later when in high school journalism class, Mr. Morales would also read aloud my fanciful crime, sports, society and miscellaneous sensational reports.

"I became truly convinced when my college English I teacher S.V. Epistola, before he became famous, likewise read aloud my (true) account of how I fought for my seat one rainy morning on a crowded bus to Diliman. He gave up after about 30 years but all that while, S.V. would ask every so often, when I would give up economics and accounting and shift to something worthwhile, like fiction.

"There is obviously much to be said for—or against—teachers reading student work aloud.

"Apropos the title, I decided that my first choice, 'Intramuros and Other Papers,' was rather uncreative and therefore began casting about for something between 'Stranger in Paradise' and 'Crash Landing in Enemy Territory' to describe a manager in the world of the arts and an artist as an organization man. 'Letras y Figuras' seems to do nicely. These are 19th-century paintings illustrating scenes of everyday life and where figures spell out a name. In one, two men—one bearing a load of sugarcane stalks and another on his haunches with a rooster—are ingeniously painted to spell out the letter 'S.' Letters and figures, letters and numbers, the qualitative and the quantitative, artists and managers, are different but together can create something wonderful."

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ALEXANDRU Tomescu

Romanian violin superstar Tomescu pays musical tribute to Redentor Romero

By Pablo A. Tariman

ROMANIAN violin superstar Alexandru Tomescu arrived last Friday, and the first thing that came to his mind before rehearsing for a series of concerts in Manila and in the provinces was to visit Redentor Romero's grave. He didn't just offer a prayer; he played Romero's favorite pieces as well.

This is Tomescu's second Manila visit this year. The last time was when he played two concertos and did a couple of solo recitals. Romero died after that engagement, and the Romanian further extended his engagements by performing Bach and Beethoven sonatas during the wake.

It has only been 10 months since Romero died, and here the Romanian is back to pay a special concert tribute to Romero on Dec. 17 at the CCP Little Theater along with Korean flutist Hae Won Shin.

What's in Romero's life that made him so special among celebrated artists like Tomescu?

Tomescu said he met Romero in the summer of 1996 in Bucharest to play in the opening concert of a violin competition. He was soloist in Mozart's Concerto No. 5. The assigned conductor didn't show up and he was replaced by a young conductor who had a hard time breaking the ice with the orchestra members.

"Romanian orchestras are known to be hard to conduct because of the sixth sense of the musicians," he said. "If they traced a smallest hesitation from the person standing in front of them, everything will go kaput."

But when Maestro Romero arrived to save the situation, Tomescu was relieved. "Maestro made music-making happen instantly and without effort," he recalled. "The total transformation of the orchestra was unbelievable. I'd like to believe it could compare with the Vienna Symphony or the Berlin Philharmonic in the orchestra's best seven days."

Five years have passed since that first encounter and Tomescu has realized that their partnership in the Mozart concerto actually paved the way for a beautiful friendship. After that initial meeting, the Romanian had the chance to know Maestro Romero more as a musician and as an artist. He admitted it was not an easy friendship.

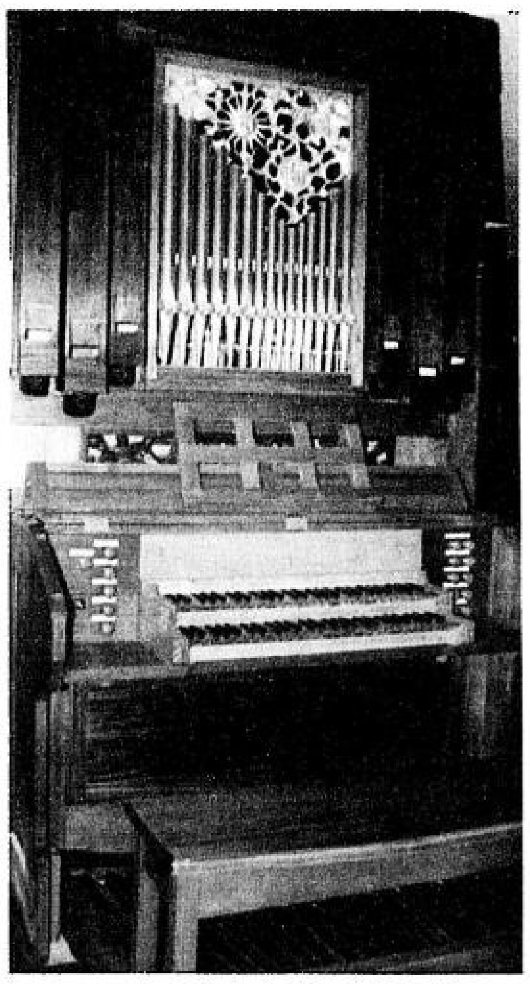
Tomescu continued: "Because onstage as well as in everyday life, Maestro Romero was quite demanding. But that's what I liked about him. No half-measures ever sufficed. And in return, we always gave full measure. I knew that behind all that, there was a warm and passionate heart, a true Filipino heart. He was like a father, and it was through his advice and care that I am able to perform as a 100-percent musician. Also he taught me what power of conviction means, what believing in music means and what being true to yourself to the very end means. Death cannot stop a big passion. I am sure that when I play for Filipino audiences this week, Maestro Romero would remain a musician and he would listen to every note I play."

Tomescu's series of engagement starts on Dec. 13 in a special command performance at the Ilustrado Courtyard in Intramuros, playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Crosswave Symphony Orchestra under Chino Toledo (for invitational tickets, call 721-7255 or (0918) 737-6901). Soprano Rachelle Gerodias opens the concert with Bizet and Puccini arias. On Dec. 17, Tomescu pays tribute to Maestro Romero in a special recital at the CCP Little Theater with pianist J. Greg Zuniega. Next day, Dec. 18, he debuts with the Manila Symphony under Regalado Jose in a back-to-back concert with pianist J. Greg Zuniega, who will open the concert with the Tchaikovsky B Flat Concerto. Next day, he flies to Tuguegarao City to grace the 2nd Cagayan Valley International Music Festival in Ilagan, Isabela.

* * *

Cellist Wilfredo Pasamba broke the record for Filipino cellists when he played three concertos (Säint-Saens' No. 1, Haydn's D Major and Schumann's A Minor) in one setting with pianist Nida Abrogar Quinto at the UP Abelardo Hall Thursday last week.

In a Philippine-made cello done by Amador Tamayo, Pasamba proved that it's the performer and not the instrument that carries weight in any performance (I know for a fact that a bad cellist or a mediocre violinist cannot be saved by an expensive Strad). In the Säint-Saens concerto, Pasamba captured all the lyrical moments. In the Haydn D Major opus, the cellist made a graceful show of all the delicate lines and didn't waver a bit. By the time he played the Schumann concerto for the final number, he didn't have to prove he had what it took to bring the three concertos into life and with equal competence and intensity. As for Quinto, she delivered the parts for the orchestra with gusto and was always attuned with the soloist. To Pasamba and Quinto, bravo!



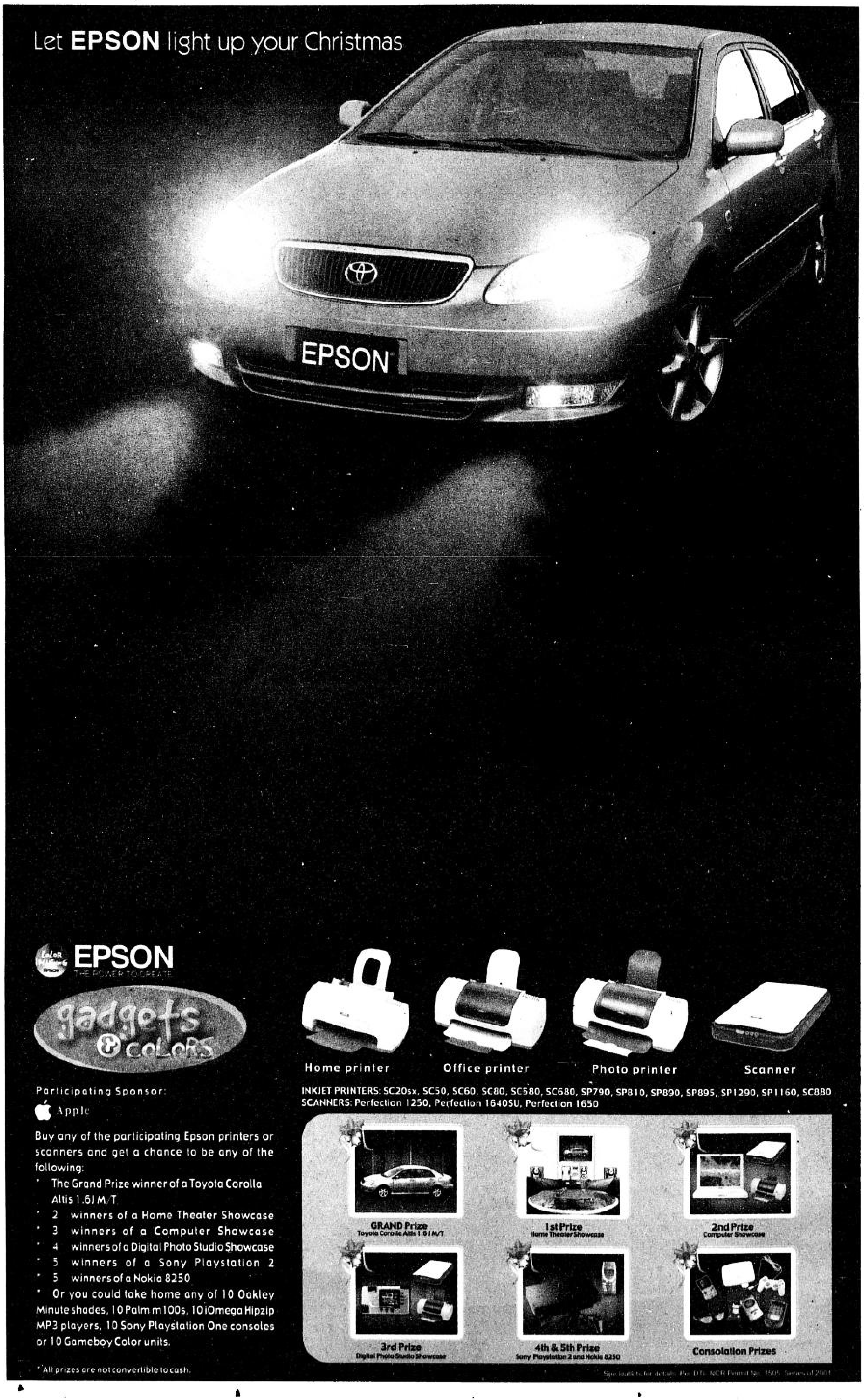
UST Conservatory of Music inaugurates rare pipe organ

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music will inaugurate on Dec. 12, 5 p.m., at its recital hall (Albertus Magnum Building) its newly installed European pipe organ, one of the remaining 12 pipe organs of its kind in the world today which has survived the World War II.

Pipe organs are a common and necessary feature in music schools abroad. However, with the installation of this rare European pipe organ, the UST Conservatory of Music will become the only music school in the Philippines to have such a musical instrument.

A concert, which is open to the public, will follow after the blessing. The performance will present Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, as organist for the first part of the concert. The cantata, "The Death of the Bishop of Brindisi," by Gian Carlo Menotti, will be performed by the UST Symphony Orchestra, the Conservatory's Liturgikon Choral Group and the Tiples de Sto. Domingo during the second part.

Soloists will be Nenen Espina-Alfornon, mezzo soprano, and Jun Francis Jaranilla, baritone. The public is invited.



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See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1505, Series of 2001

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so much to learn by probing into the historical sites of this nation. It helps to remember that life was substantially different around the 1890s, and many of the things we now take for granted simply did not exist.

keep the pages of our history alive and relevant to our time, not just for ourselves but for many generations of Filipinos to come, in order to fulfill our shared vision of a better and greater Philippines."

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A CENTURY of INNOVATIONS
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4186 Series of 2001

The power of frank speech

(From page E4)

Robin Salazar) and a stripper (Ana Abad Santos), a relationship that is rudely interrupted when a photographer (Pinky Amador) seduces the writer. Meantime, a dermatologist (Bart Guingona) obsesses over the photographer and later finds himself in the arms of the stripper. The round robin of relationships exposes each character's desires, their foibles and innate contradictions, in short, their (and recognizably our) humanity. In one brilliantly subtle comic scene after another, Patrick Marber shows us how despite all the available avenues for intimacy in today's world—the Internet, strip clubs—we are nevertheless unable to get "closer" to each other.

The play's language reflects Marber's warts and all portrayal of these "sophisticated" urbanites trapped by their own elemental desires. The play is so honest, the strong language seems so natural.

That's it in the end, I guess. The reason I will do any play no matter how "obscene" is because honesty is too good a virtue to trade in for politeness. What should language be if not an expression of honesty? That's why, no matter how apologetic I sometimes feel about the brazenness of the language, I would never pass up the chance to do a play as powerful as this. Mind you, I have had lots of opportunity to use the most colorful language in the week leading up to our opening, beginning with our original venue burning down, up to today, as negotiations for our new venue twist and turn. I felt as put upon as a pregnant woman looking for a stable to give birth in, but that's another story. I don't think I've cursed so much in my life. I can almost see my father lathering the soap in the bathroom.

Catch "Closer" at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute theater before it closes on Dec. 15. Call AAI at 536-5844.

FEU alumni party

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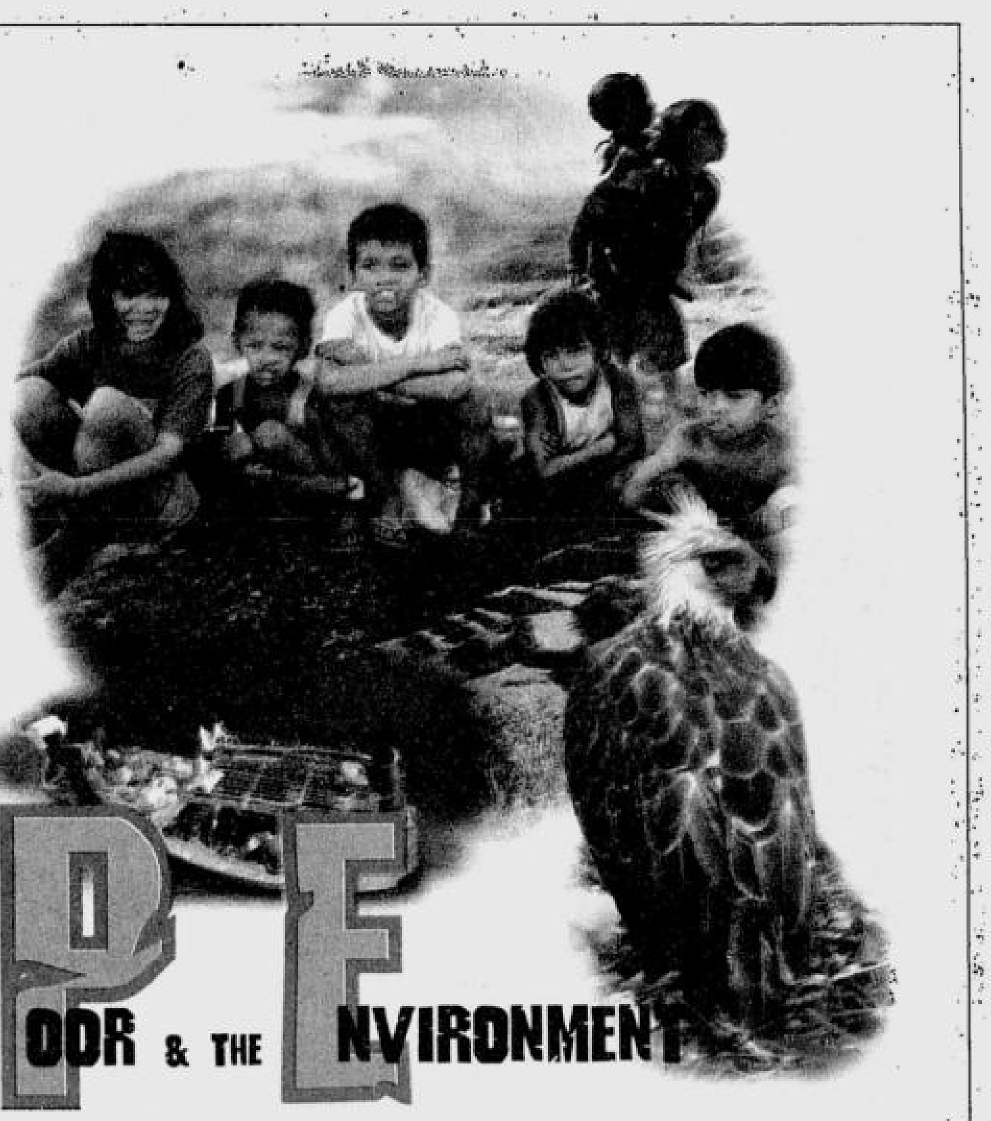

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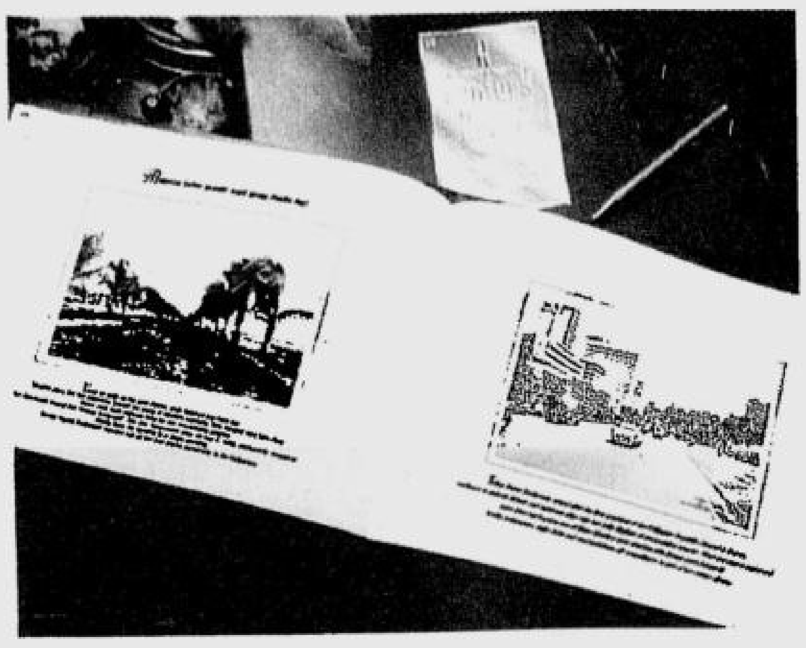

Book shows then and now of cultural heritage

"THE PHILIPPINES, A Century Hence—Then and Now," a coffee-table book now available in major bookstores, is written and compiled by Rene Ros Olbes, a natural-born Filipino of Spanish descent.

Through Olbe's book, the reader can simply look back 100 years or so and compare priceless photographs of different locations, buildings or monuments throughout the Philippines, side by side with the exact scenes today, and using the same vantage points.

The "then" photographs are hand-colored postcards that date back from the late 1890s until the end of the World War II. They allow us to imagine how things were back then, and see the effects of time by direct comparison. The progress and rich history of the Philippines are detailed in every page, and there is so much to learn by probing into the historical sites of this nation. It helps to remember that life was substantially different around the 1890s, and many of the things we now take for granted simply did not exist.

The "now" photographs are vivid scenes captured on camera from the same angles as those in the old postcards, showing the inevitability of change and challenging the readers to take an active part in creating a better future for the Philippines.

The book is made possible with the participation of First E-Bank, a patron of the preservation of Philippine culture and heritage.

Former President Fidel Y. Ramos, in the book's foreword, says "As we look forward to the exciting changes of the 21st century, we are best guided by the legacy and experiences brought about by the 20th century." He says the book is "a unique concept that offers us the luxury of direct comparison between the past and the present."

The former President adds "We can learn more of what we can do to keep the pages of our history alive and relevant to our time, not just for ourselves but for many generations of Filipinos to come, in order to fulfill our shared vision of a better and greater Philippines."

The power of frank speech

(From page E4)

Robin Salazar) and a stripper (Ana Abad Santos), a relationship that is rudely interrupted when a photographer (Pinky Amador) seduces the writer. Meantime, a dermatologist (Bart Guingona) obsesses over the photographer and later finds himself in the arms of the stripper. The round robin of relationships exposes each character's desires, their foibles and innate contradictions, in short, their (and recognizably our) humanity. In one brilliantly subtle comic scene after another, Patrick Marber shows us how despite all the available avenues for intimacy in today's world—the Internet, strip clubs—we are nevertheless unable to get "closer" to each other.

The play's language reflects Marber's warts and all portrayal of these "sophisticated" urbanites trapped by their own elemental desires. The play is so honest, the strong language seems so natural.

That's it in the end, I guess. The reason I will do any play no matter how "obscene" is because honesty is too good a virtue to trade in for politeness. What should language be if not an expression of honesty? That's why, no matter how apologetic I sometimes feel about the brazenness of the language, I would never pass up the chance to do a play as powerful as this. Mind you, I have had lots of opportunity to use the most colorful language in the week leading up to our opening, beginning with our original venue burning down, up to today, as negotiations for our new venue twist and turn. I felt as put upon as a pregnant woman looking for a stable to give birth in, but that's another story. I don't think I've cursed so much in my life. I can almost see my father lathering the soap in the bathroom.

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The contest runs from December 3, 2001 to March 7, 2002. There are two separate categories : the High School and the College Levels.

Prizes (Tax-Free)
For the college level, prizes will be: First, P50,000; Second, P30,000 and Third, P20,000 in cash.

For the high school level, prizes will be: First, P25, 000; Second, P15,000 and Third, P10,000 in cash.

In addition, 3M Philippines will donate 3M products to the colleges and schools represented by the major prize winners.

Rules/Mechanics of the Contest

1. This contest is open to high school and college students especially for Fine Arts, Architecture and Engineering students in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao duly registered as of SY 2001-2002. Entries are welcome only from individuals, not groups.
2. Entry forms will also be available at the Offices of High School Principals and Deans in selected schools in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao, and at the Corporate Marketing and Public Affairs Office (CMPA) of 3M Philippines,18/F PCI Bank Tower II,Makati Avenue, Makati City or Virtusio Public Relations, Inc., 810 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza, Greenhills, San Juan.
3. The contestants are invited to submit the following:
   a. A design for a "Dispenser" for 3M Post-It® Notes, following these specifications: Dispenser Size: maximum of (12.7 cm x 12.7cm) to dispense (7.6 cm x 7.6cm) fan fold Post-It® Notes one at a time, of any shape with a spring mechanism.
   b. A prototype based on the design.
4. Both the design and the prototype must use Philippine native materials in its main body or structure, with the exception of subsidiary materials, such as glue, paste, paint, varnish, etc.
5. Designs can be created for either of the following uses :
   a. Office/Desktop Post-It® Notes Dispenser
   b. Travelling/Portable Post-It® Notes Dispenser
6. To qualify for judging, an entry (design and prototype) will have to be submitted with the following :
   Entry Forms, with the signature of the High School Principal or College Dean. This will attest that the person submitting the entry is a bonafide student of the High School or College/University and that the entry is his/her work.
   Attach One (1) **Brown Back Liner of any Post-It ® Notes to the Entry Form.**
7. Entries from Metro Manila should be submited to Ms. Loren Gargantia, 3M CMPA Office, 18/F PCI Bank Tower II, Makati Avenue, Makati City; Cebu; to Mr. Manuel Perez, 3M Cebu, Unit 503-504, Ayala Life-FGU Bldg., Cebu Business Park, Mindanao Ave., Cebu City 6000; and Davao to Mr. German Solatorio, 3M Davao, Door # 3 Blucor Bldg., Insular Village, Lanang, Davao City .
8. Only entries submitted on or before 5 p.m, Thursday, 7 March 2002 for Metro Manila will qualify. Deadline for submission of entries for Cebu and Davao is March 4, 2002.
9. Judging is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2002, 8 am-2 pm at the 3M Dunmire Room, 21/ F PCI Bank Tower II , Makati Avenue, Makati City.
10. Entries will be judged on the basis of originality, aesthetic appeal and practicality.
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    Practicality — refers to the functional ease in using the dispenser 25%
11. Judges' decision will be final.
12. Names of winners of major prizes will be published in major dailies on March 11, 2002 for both High School and College Categories. They will be notified via registered mail.
13. All winning entries become the property of 3M Philippines.
14. Employees of 3M Philippines, Virtusio Public Relations, Inc. including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
15. A participant can only win once. If contestant wins more than once, he/she will get the bigger prize.
16. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from notification. Prices not claimed within 60 days of receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of 3M with prior approval from the DTI.
17. Prizes can be claimed at the 3M Office stated in the registered notice upon presentation of a valid ID.

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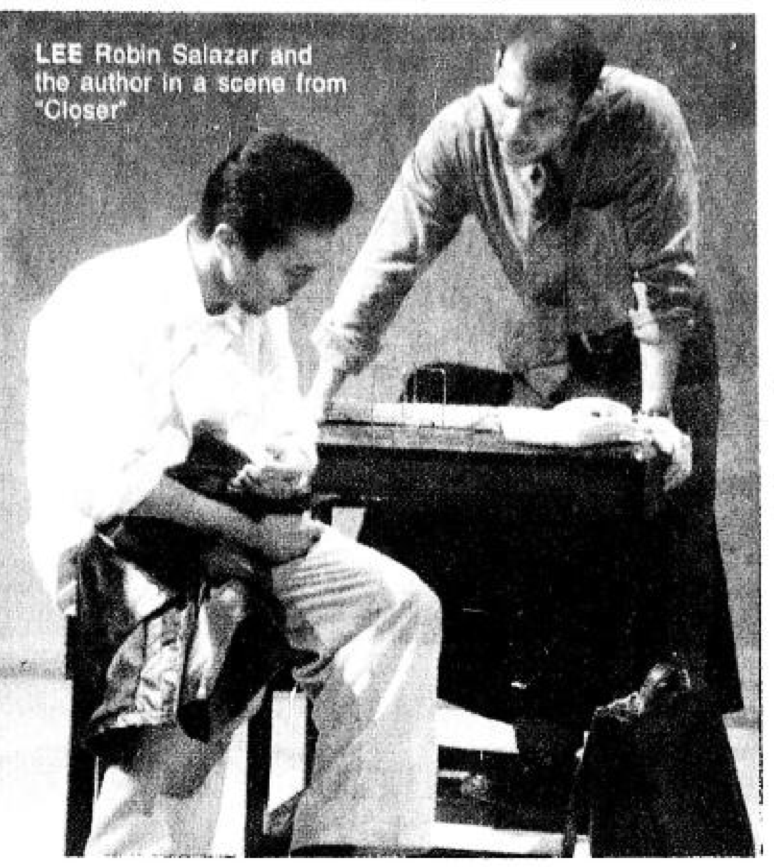
The power of frank speech

By Bart Guingona
Contributor



LEE Robin Salazar and the author in a scene from "Closer"

I HAVE tasted soap. It was my father's cure-all for a dirty mouth. I am now doing a play whose language is very "frank," to put it nicely, and I am suddenly and involuntarily doing a sense memory exercise. My tongue tastes the suds as vividly as if I had decided to chew on a bar of soap. I keep thinking to myself that my dad (not to mention my mom) would never approve of the language spewed by the character I play. In fact, they'd probably find the character too disgusting to deserve being put on stage. I could imagine them saying, "Why would anyone want to see the story of *that* man."

What is it with colorful language, words that describe certain body parts ("kiss my a—!"), or biological acts ("f—!") or even byproducts of human digestion ("sh-t!"), that repulses us, but at the same time titillates our sensibilities? The older I get, the less seem to understand what the big deal is about. "Vagina Monologues" and "Shopping and Fucking" were certifiable hits on the basis of titles alone (not to say they didn't turn out to have true literary merit), which just goes to show that the paradox is alive and kicking, the one that says that we as species are generally attracted by what repulses us.

Gutter insouciance

The f-word has such an allure it has actually spawned urban legends (you know the e-mail circulating about its origin being "Fornication Under Consent of the King" because, according to legend, the British King Henry VIII, blah blah...), inspired debate (the MTRCB's hemming and hawing about the use of profanity over the years), and even launched stellar careers (Eminem). It is widely used today in very different contexts. As embellishment to an exclamation ("Did you f—ing see that?!"); as an avenue for venting disgust and/or rage ("Get the f— out of my way you f—ing lousy f—ing driver!"—usually muttered under the breath when one is late for an appointment and has to navigate the hopeless traffic); as a crude if direct come-on ("I wanna f— you"); and as a provocation to fisticuffs ("F— you!"). You have to admit that, as a word, it packs a punch.

My parents would always warn us that language that belonged to the gutter had no place in the polite drawing rooms. But what about the theater? Shakespeare seems polite by today's standards but that's because many of us don't understand what is today considered archaic English. I look forward to the day when I can spew, "You king of codpieces whoreson loggerhead!" to someone I truly despise. I believe that it was only during the 19th century and onward, when theater became gentrified, that the language used on stage became "polite." That didn't stop geniuses like Wilde and Coward from brilliantly employing double-entendres to insinuate sex and sexuality.

I must credit my parents with the politeness of my manner and my general appreciation for the value of subtlety and grace. But when I made the decision to be an artist, I must admit that I felt some sense of liberation at being able to disregard some of the societal strictures on my language. I have often caught the purse on the lips of my parents when even the hint of a curse escaped my lips. I give full credit to Tita Bibot Amador during my REP days for introducing me to the art of creative profanity. I've realized in many ways that it does have its uses. I have to admit, though, that with one foot planted squarely in my yuppie past, and the other firmly rooted to the quest for authentic artistic expression, I find myself constantly trying to juggle between drawing-room polity and gutter insouciance.

Now, I am doing a play about adults for adults, which doesn't shirk from the use of language that necessarily displays the emotions of its characters. It's sometimes very funny, sometimes a bit hard to watch, for its frankness and often ugly because it is so real. It's a brilliant piece of literature and I'm urging you to see it, to feel a bit unsettled (Someone said on opening night that she felt like a voyeur. It kept her and her friends up in deep discussion until the wee hours) and to lend yourself to the relief of catharsis.

"Closer" by Patrick Marber is funny but is unapologetically dark as well. It boasts of some really marvelous performances from Ana Abad Santos, Pinky Amador and Lee Robin Salazar. These guys sure know how to make the most out of a good script.

Round robin

The play opens with the blossoming of a relationship between an obituary writer (Lee

THE POWER/ p.E3

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2nd Monthly Draw: Feb. 15, 2002 (33 winners) • Rustan's Gift Certificates worth ₱10,000 each (8 winners) • Dish Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Old Manila Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Tivoli Grill Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Benkay Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Bocarinos Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Cash Credits worth ₱5,000 each (15 winners)

3rd Monthly Draw: March 15, 2002 (33 winners) • Rustan's Gift Certificates worth ₱10,000 each (8 winners) • Dish Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • El Comedor Gift Certificates worth ₱7;000 each (2 winners) • La Primavera Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Gloria Maris Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Sugi Gift Certificates worth ₱7,000 each (2 winners) • Cash Credits worth ₱5,000 each (15 winners)

Grand Draw: April 15, 2002 (5 winners) 1st: ₱1,000,000.00 (1 winner) 2nd: ₱500,000.00 (1 winner) 3rd: Trip for 2 to Bangkok (3 winners) (inclusive of: RT airfare, 4D/3N hotel accommodation, complimentary breakfasts & pocket money worth USD $500.)

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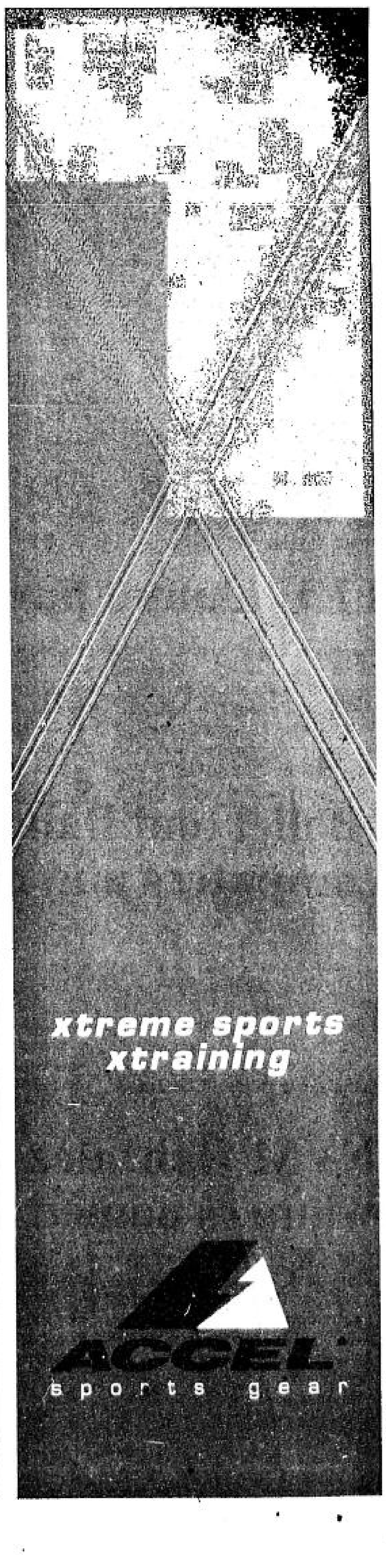
Promo period December 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002. See posters and flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4068, Series of 2001.



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Critical hits, award winners in Cinemanila film festival

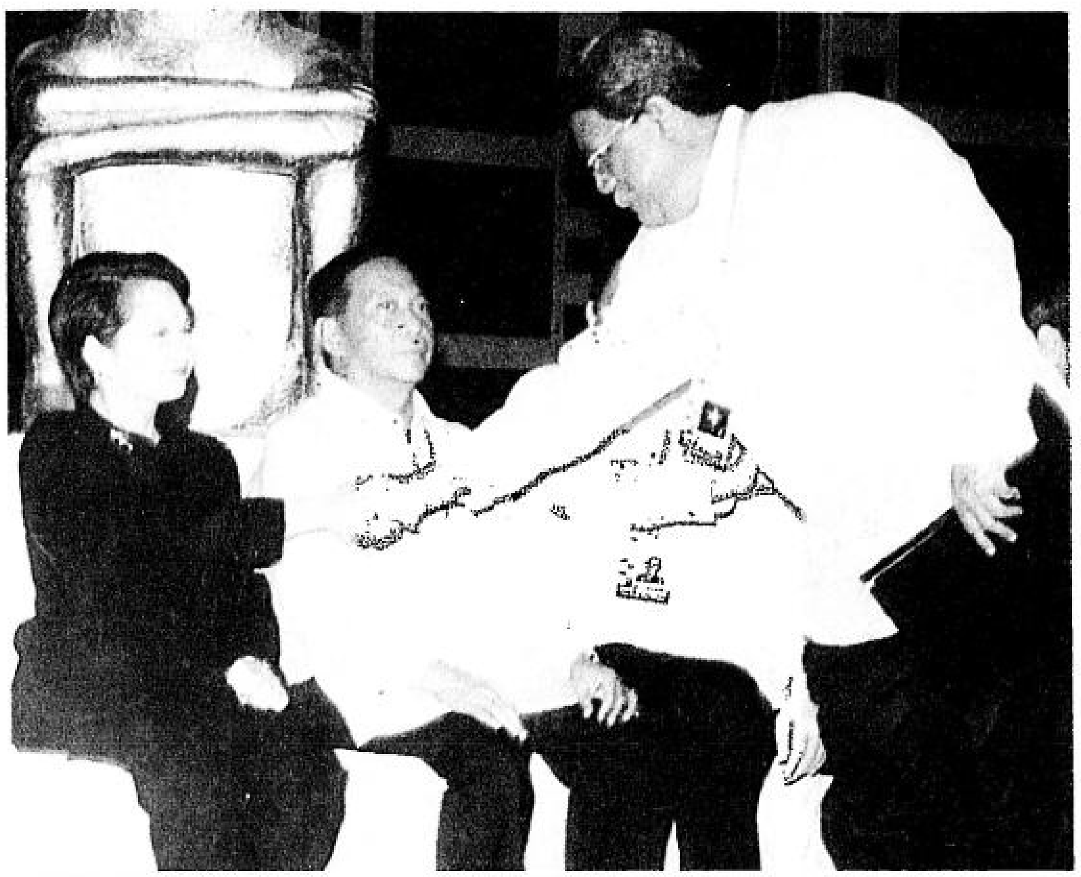
TORRENTS of critically acclaimed and award-winning films are treating audiences of the 3rd Annual Cinemanila International Film Festival. Presented by the City of Makati, Cinemanila 2001 will be held until Dec. 16 at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas in Ayala Center.

Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands and Norway are among the European countries with hallmark films in the 10-day festival, while the best of contemporary Asian cinema is represented by entries from South Korea, Thailand, Iran, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. More films include those from New Zealand, Canada, Mexico and the United States.

From Czech Republic, Jan Hrebejk's "Divided We Fall," an Oscar nominee this year for Best Foreign-Language Film, is among the major films in showcase. It tells the story of a childless couple in a small Czech town occupied by German forces toward the end of the World War II. They have to protect their vicinity from possible Nazi reprisal as they offered a refuge to a young Jewish male who escaped from a concentration camp.

When the wife refused the sexual advances of the neighborhood collaborator, the latter plans to revenge by scheming to move a Nazi clerk to the vacant room of the couple's house. The sterile husband has no choice but to ask the Jewish refugee in hiding to impregnate his spouse so that they could decline the Nazi authorities by telling them they would soon need the extra space of their abode for their firstborn.

"Divided We Fall" is the winner of numerous awards, including best picture at the 2001 Czech Film and Television Academy Awards as well as the Czech Film Critics Awards.


PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates festival director Tikoy Aguiluz VI during the formal opening of the festival, while Makati Mayor Jojo Binay looks on.

Black comedy

Jan Svankmajer's "Greedy Guts," another Czech film, is a fairy tale-cum-black comedy about a barren woman who stumbles on a solution to her and her husband's malaise upon unearthing a tree stump resembling a young baby. An update of a popular Czech children's fable, "Greedy Guts" is believed to be leading Czech surrealist Svankmajer's best feature. It was previously exhibited in last year's Venice and this year's Rotterdam and Seattle International Film Festivals to unanimous rave reviews.

Pal Jackman's "Detector" is the lone Norwegian entry about a psychologist new on the job and bound to deal with a strange mix of patients in varying degrees of confusion. The film vied for the Golden St. George Award at the recent Moscow International Film Festival.

Another country with a single entry is New

CRITICAL/ p.F2

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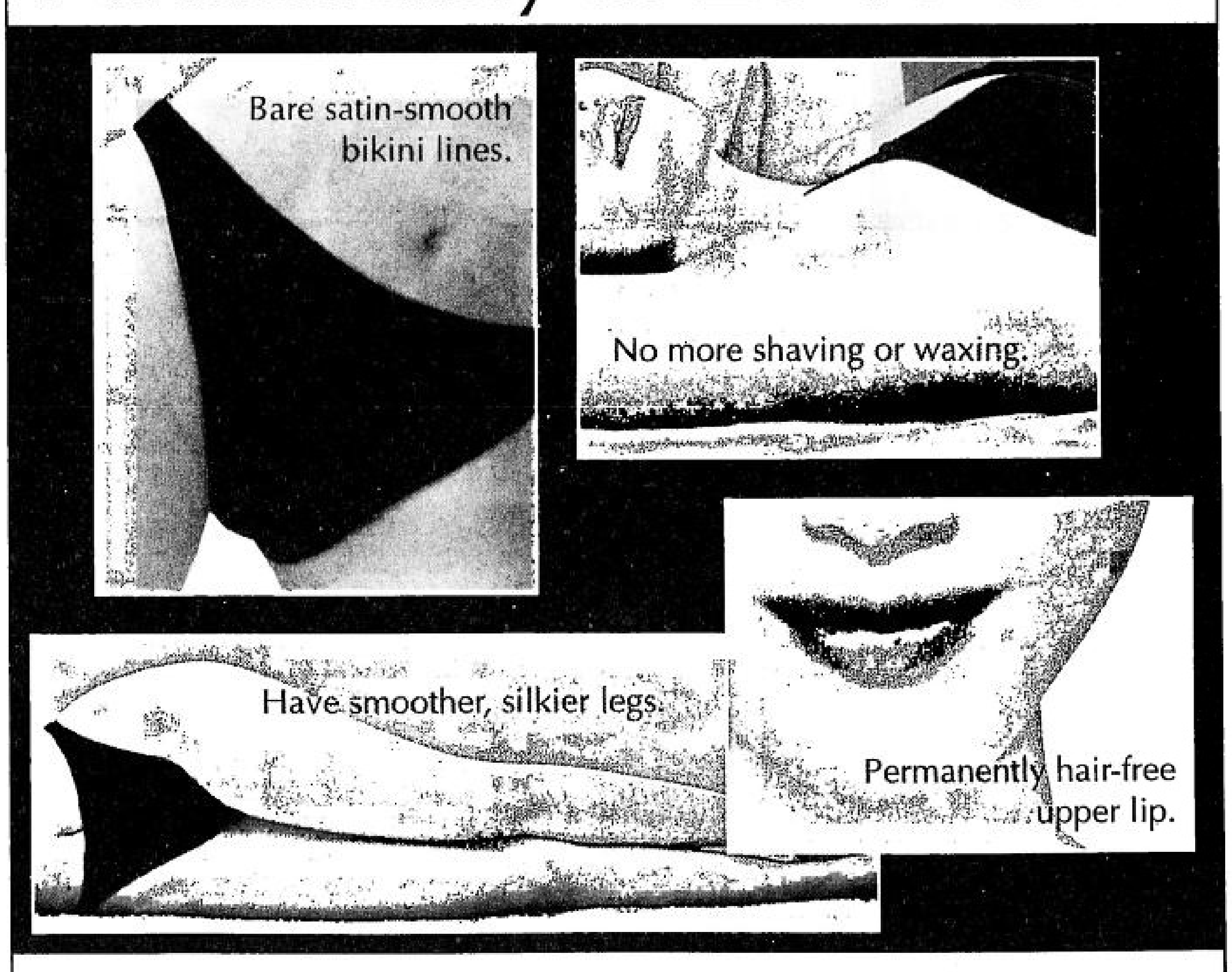
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Edith Oliveros' Christmas in poverty and dignity

"*AY naku*!" Edith Oliveros quips, brushing aside remarks that a woman like her, who has spent years of making rooms beautiful, could do a tableau of the Nativity scene set inside a "home along the *riles*."

She aptly calls her work "Susmaryosep," one of 16 by various artists, all about the First Christmas, on exhibit at Shangri-la Plaza (not Rustan's Tower as earlier reported) in Mandaluyong recently.

"Life is good even if poor," she says of her work that recalls the First Christmas in an urban poor setting.

In the tableau, Mary and Joseph find their place in a *barong-barong* by the railroad tracks so familiar in the Philippine setting. It was set inside a scaled replica of a shanty, produced and filled up with all the paraphernalia representing all that is typical of that life—from the used tires that hold down the roof to the hung wash, the *kulambo* and the *basura*.

Inside, there are signs of life and livelihood—the barbecue grill, the *balut* corner and the *kariton* scrap business.

In this material world, Edith maintains, there's nothing wrong with being poor. For as long as one has all the basic requirements needed to live, one could be happy, she says.

There's entertainment, too, in her tableau. There's a basketball court in one corner, a *dama* set in another. A *banig*, poster of a candidate during a campaign, a help-wanted board and oil lamp complete the *barong-barong* setting.

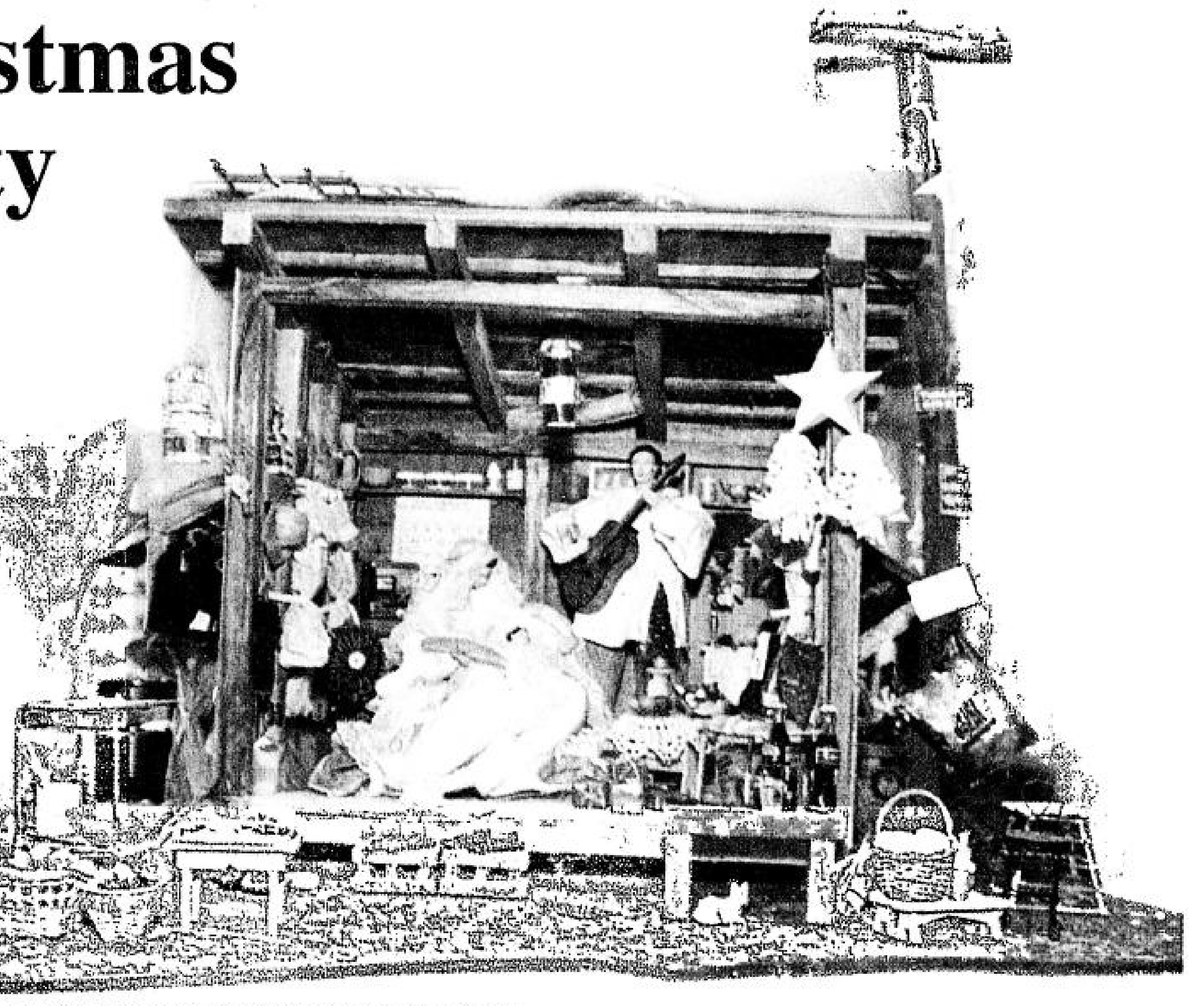
"There's so much to be thankful for," she says. "Life is if difficult, but that was how it was during the First Christmas. There's nothing wrong with being poor, for as long as you've met all the basic requirements of survival."

Christmas in a shanty along the *riles* is good even if used tires hold down the roof, the wash is hanging out to dry and the garbage that's piling up. Like the First Christmas, life is kind even if difficult. That's the whole point of the tableau.

The exhibit was the fourth staged by Edith's group, for the benefit of the Baile Foundation, an organization of folk dancers. The first one was about lanterns, the second, Christmas trees, and last year, *noche buena* table setting.

For next year, the group was thinking of putting up artwork on *simbang gabi* scenes. This early, Edith is thinking of something brighter. She hopes to do another tableau of a typical poor Filipino home, only this time she will picture the Filipino family to be a little bit affluent, probably with an FX taxi, a videoke, karaoke, the amenities. The Filipino family, she hopes, will do better next year.

Gerry Lirio



"SUSMARYOSEP," Nativity design by Oliveros

Trumpets presents live 'belen'

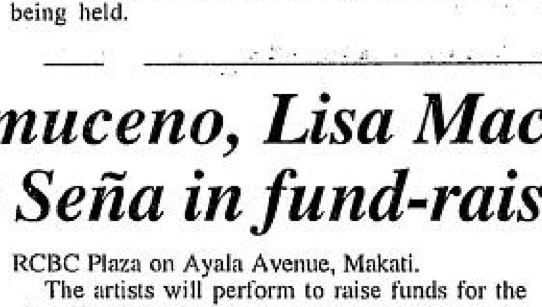
EXPERINCE the true meaning of Christmas as Shangri-La Plaza and Trumpets present "A King's Birth," a live *belen* production every Saturday and Sunday until Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. at the mall's Grand Atrium.

For the past two weekends, Trumpets' talents garbed in beautiful costumes by Liz Batoctoy, with the special participation of the Mandaluyong Children's Choir, have been fascinating viewers with their heartwarming performance.

Directed by Audie Gemora and narrated by Freddie Santos, "A King's Birth" is a 45-minute show featuring the Three Kings coming from various levels of the mall to bring their gifts for the Baby Jesus, an angel descending from the 4/L, life-size camels and donkeys, shepherds tending to their flock. The finale is a meaningful tableau of the Holy Manger, amid echos of Christmas carols and the magnificence of the mall's Christmas décor of golden cherubs, jewel and gold chain garland with lion head tiebacks and various sizes of Christmas balls at the fountain area.

CATHEDRAL-INSPIRED stage forms backdrop to Nativity scene.

WELL-DECKED halls of Shangri-La Plaza



SHEPHERD tends his sheep.

The weekend live *belen* show is part of the mall's holiday celebration titled, "A Royal Birth at the Shang," a series of Yuletide treats and activities. The Grand Atrium, replete with Italian Renaissance-style Christmas ornaments, boasts of a newly constructed cathedral-inspired stage where every weekend, various presentations are being held.

Aside from "A King's Birth," Robert Seña will perform with the Ugoy-Ugoy Band and Gigi Valmores in "A King's Night" on Dec. 14; the Philippine Opera Company in "A Royal Serenade," Dec. 21; storytelling by Alitaptap and a coloring contest 10 a.m.-12 nn, Dec. 15 and 22 (children ages 2 to 12 can participate); the Effie Nanas School of Classical Ballet with 100 kids in "Nutcracker," Dec. 16; the Makiling Ensemble in a one-night performance of Christmas carols, Dec. 19; and the Dynamic Youth Chorale, a group of musically gifted Filipino-Chinese, Dec. 19 and 28.

The celebration peaks with tenor Nolyn Cabahug with a 35-piece orchestra (mostly from PPO) and the Chang Kai Shek Choir performing "Tribute to the King," a 1½-hour concert of well-loved Christmas tunes interspersed with narration on Dec. 23. A New Year presentation on Dec. 29 will feature award-winning pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz and friends.

For the holidays, Shangri-La Plaza is open daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m. To give shoppers more time to do their last-minute shopping, the mall will be open until 12 midnight Dec. 21-23. *Simbang gabi* schedules are 8-9 p.m. (Dec. 15-22) and 9-10 p.m. (Dec. 23).

Critical hits, award winners in Cinemanila film festival

(From page F1)

Zealand, last year's Cinemanila's country in focus. This year it fields "The Price of Milk" from director Harry Sinclair and producer Fiona Copland, whose previous collaboration in 1997, "Topless Women Talk about Their Lives," swept New Zealand's pool of awards and has been screened in 37 countries around the world. "The Price of Milk" stars Danielle Cormack in the role of a dairy farm maiden whose engagement with a milkman is headed for trouble.

Cormack, a leading light in the contemporary New Zealand cinema, will be here in the country for Cinemanila. She made the transition to the big screen after a flourishing career in television made her a household name. Portraying a recurring guest character in "Xena: Warrior Princess," a US TV production filmed in New Zealand, brought Cormack an international fan base at the same time that she was establishing herself in successful independent film productions in her own country. On several occasions, she has attended the Cannes Film Festival to promote her performances in these critically acclaimed works.

Canada whodunit

"The Price of Milk" won the Critics' Award at the 2001 Fantasporto and was exhibited in last year's Toronto and this year's Hong Kong International Film Festivals. From Canada comes Robert Lepage's "Possible Worlds," an unconventional whodunit revolving around a pair of detectives on the trail of a killer behind the gruesome death of a man whose brain is removed from the corpse. "Possible Worlds" is much touted to be a provocative film with existential dimension as it explores the nature of humans as the only species on earth able to make plans for the future and feel regret for the past.

"Possible Worlds" won best editing and best production design honors and was nominated for best picture at the Genie Awards, the Canadian equivalent of the Oscars. A rundown of films from the United States will unravel a slew of indie gems foremost of which is Abe Lim's "Roads and Bridges," a modern spin on the old Western tale set in Middle America and centering on the joint odyssey of a young and rebellious Asian-American and an African-American family man.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Zobel

Lim has been film editor for acclaimed maverick filmmaker Robert Altman. His graduate thesis film, "Fly," impressed Altman so much that the latter eventually offered his full services as executive producer for "Roads and Bridges." The film was made over the course of five years on a stop-and-go schedule with a skeleton crew. Upon being finished, it proved to be a labor of love. In making the film, Lim himself went through a journey peppered with similar adventures and dangers posed by the roadblocks in the path of his characters in the film. "Roads and Bridges" was adjudged best dramatic narrative feature at the 2nd Annual San Diego Asian Film Festival last September.

Log on to the Cinemanila website at www.cinemanila.com.ph or call the Cinemanila Secretariat at 881-6782 and 882-3935.

Willie Nepomuceno, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and Robert Seña in fund-raising concert

IMPERSONATOR and social satirist Willie Nepomuceno, prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and premier dance partner Osias Barroso of Ballet Manila, theater impressario Robert Seña and "Miss Saigon" understudy Gigi Valmores are featured in "Ilaw@Aliw" tonight at 7:30 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza on Ayala Avenue, Makati.

The artists will perform to raise funds for the electrification of Barangay Malabang, Davao del Sur. "Ilaw@Aliw" is a project of the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines for the benefit of the Foundation for Rural Electrification for Economic Development through Oracle Philippines Corp., local subsidiary of the world's largest enterprise software company. The leading Internet software provider is supporting the project as an exclusive ticket distributor and sponsor committed to raising P1 million for the electrification of the town of Malabang. Call 812-3551.

Déclassé to purists, pure fun to Pinoys

(From page F4)

tough on the dancers' part is that "Belen" follows the ballet. These dancers finish work close to midnight. But then, Ballet Manila dancers have always been known to push their physical capabilities to the limits.

For all of Ballet Manila's noble intentions of popularizing a foreign art, there are purists who still insist that this elitist dance form deserves a classy audience. Naysayers might find BM's tack of mixing with the circus artists, or performing amid a carnival setting, déclassé. If you're accustomed to the exclusivity of the Cultural Center, what with the tight security and the hobnobbing with the social set at its lobby, you might find the drummers on the ledge outside Star City Theater and the raucous throng of the hoi polloi a bit jarring. However, the lively atmosphere gives you that great feeling that even if the Filipino may be poor in material things, he's rich in time. However cliché it may sound, the buoyant spirit of the crowd reflects the Filipino's much-vaunted resilience.

Packed

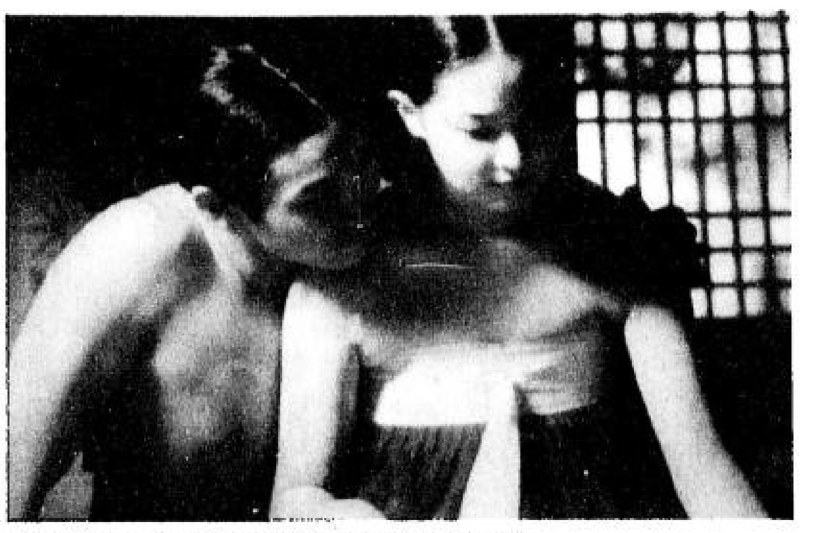
The gala night of "The Nutcracker" commanded good audience attendance. Star City visitors occupied the back part of the theater, and believe me, it was full. The patrons and paying audience sat closer to the stage.

"The Nutcracker" is traditionally the bread and butter of any company. At this point, a jaded reviewer cannot take this ballet seriously, especially if one has seen a million and one versions, including the high-tech interpretation featuring Barbie and Ken and the New York City Ballet.

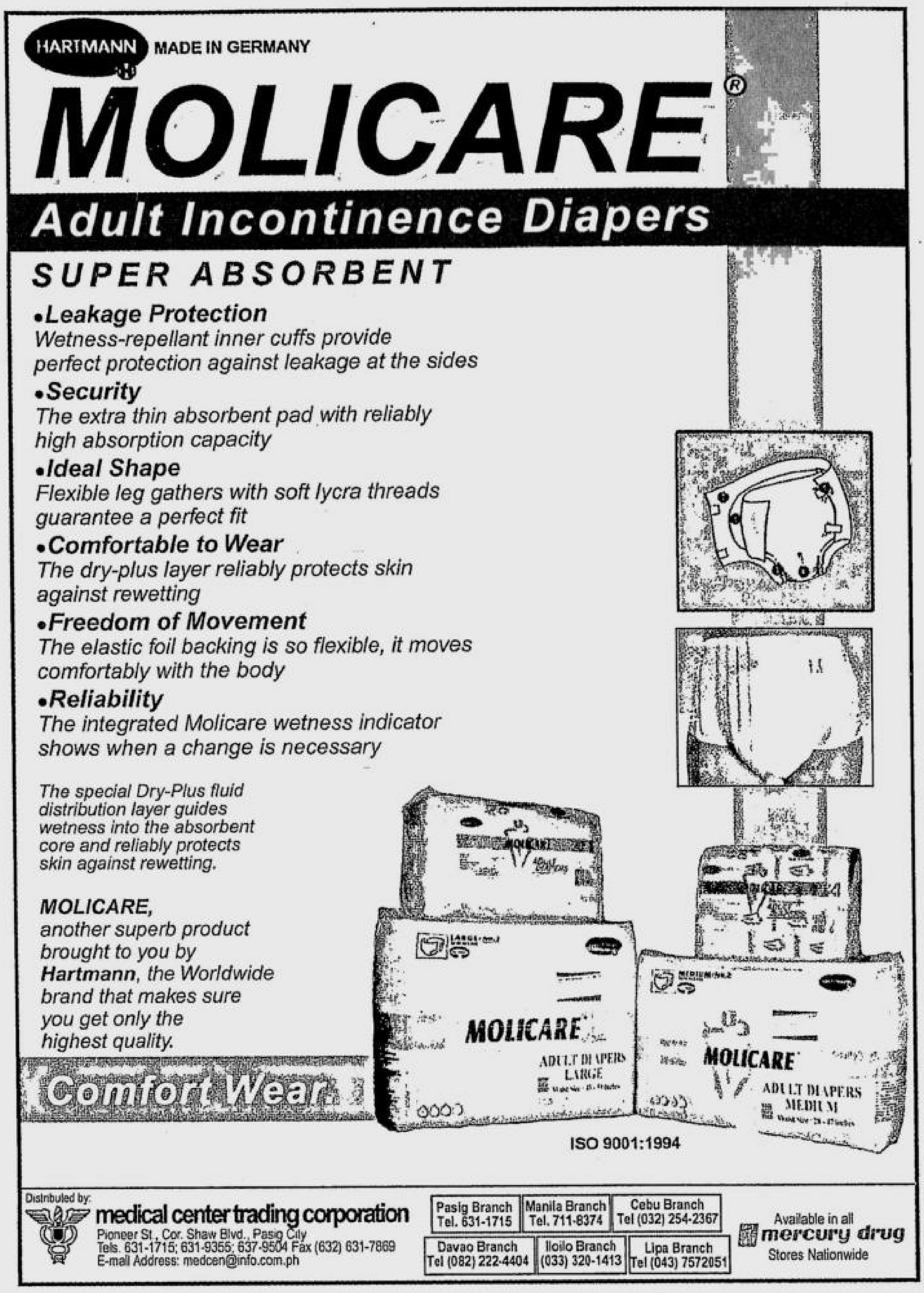
On the plus side, Lisa and longtime partner Osias Barroso still elicited "bravos" for variations of their overhead lifts. To me, the most outstanding performance was the Arabian duet, done by Elline Damian and Jeffrey Espejo. Damian's tiny waistline, delicious hyperextensions, and loose joints are enviable. Espejo did a wonderful job as the gentlemanly partner.

The "Dance of the Snowflakes" looked more like hailstorm. Most of the dancers seemed to be in a hurry, as if trying to avoid rush-hour traffic.

Nonetheless, we still recommend "The Nutcracker." You get a triple treat of watching the ballet, the circus and the rides.



A SCENE from South Korea's "Chunhyang"



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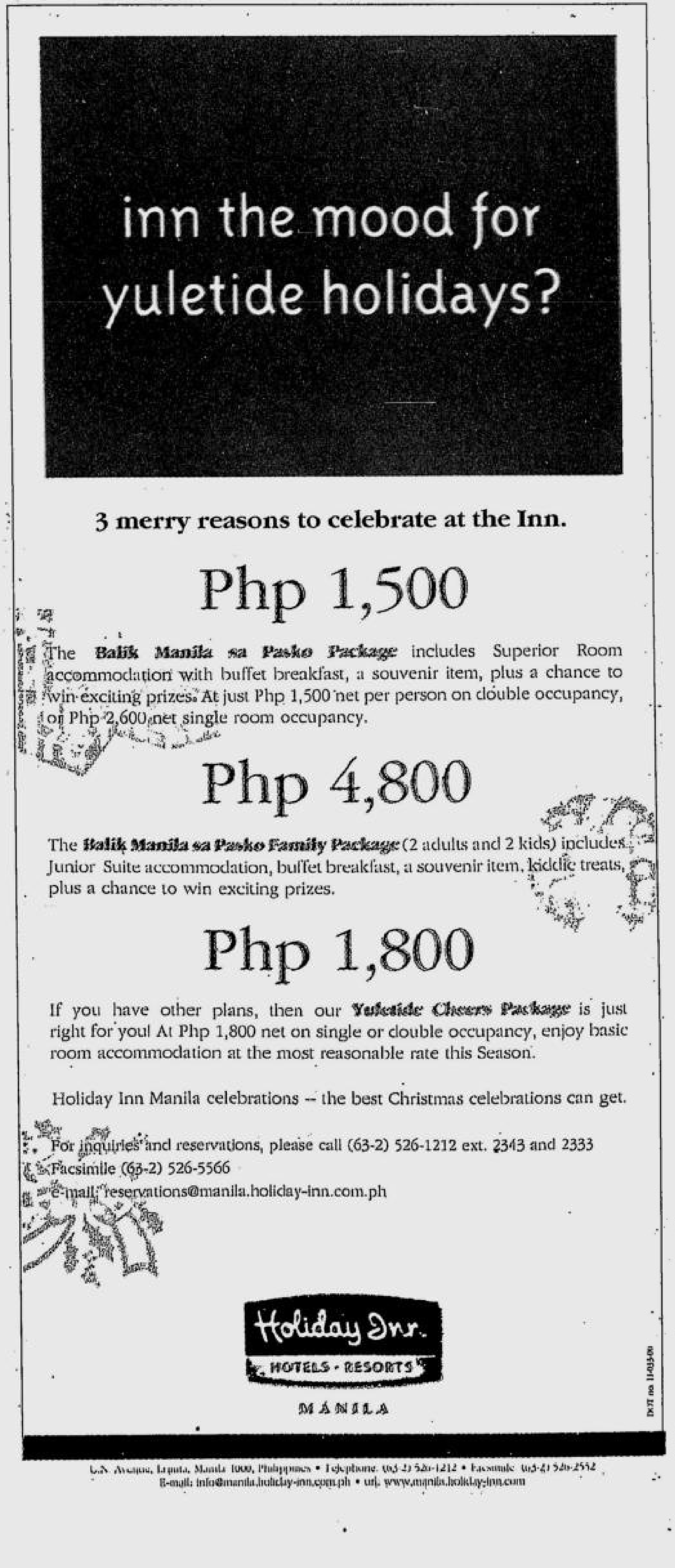

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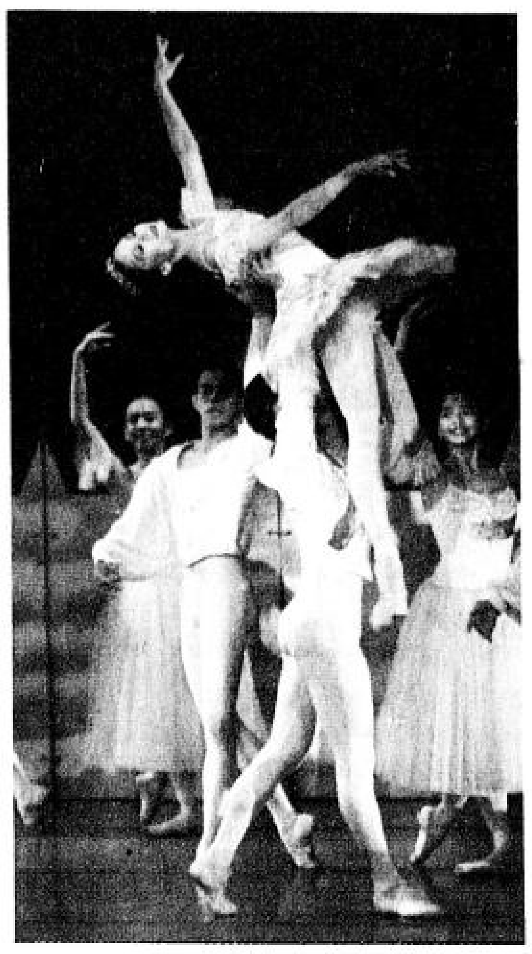
VARIATIONS OF THE OVERHEAD LIFTS. Lisa Macuja-Elizalde as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Osias Barroso as her Cavalier



BALLET MANILA AT STAR CITY

Déclassé to purists, pure fun to Pinoys

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Joan Bondoc

REVIEW

IN JUST six years, Ballet Manila has reached the pinnacle of success. From a breakaway ensemble group with a safe repertoire of classical divertissements, it now has a full-fledged company, replete with male and female corps de ballet, a studio, commissioned works, a budget for visiting guest-teachers and choreographers, and its very own Star City Theater.

That's the biggest news of all. The company's new location in the Star City complex augurs well for its mission of making an arcane art form accessible to the mass market.

The 840-seater theater, with plush upholstered seats and marble flooring, costs nearly P60 million. The engineers traveled to major entertainment complexes in the world for the latest sound and technology systems. The walls are lined with life-size posters of Ballet Manila's soloists in their signature roles. Unlike the GSIS Theater whose stage is too small for full-length ballets, the Star City Theater is deep and wide for spectacle dancing.

The Star City Theater's main attraction is "Belen," a 45-minute circus act, interspersing ballet vignettes with pop music, fire-eating stunts, gymnastics, a parade of animals and the Three Kings and a video of water ballet. The stage is a burst of vivid colors, the strongest element of the show. Undoubtedly, the star is BM's founder and head honcho Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

Real treat

Star City runs up to some 20,000 visitors on weekends and holds as much as seven shows a night. That's a lot of work for Ballet Manila, even if their dance numbers are short. The theater is always filled to capacity and the management has developed a system for easy flow of human traffic.

Until next weekend, visitors of Star City will get a real treat. The full rate not only covers the rides and "Belen" but also "The Nutcracker."

This classical ballet, which is an annual Christmas ceremony, complements the carnival setting of Star City. With a running time of 90 minutes, it is paced quickly and has a five-minute interval between the two acts, thank goodness. What is

DÉCLASSÉ/p.F2

LISA as Masha and her Nutcracker

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LIFESTYLE

Arts/Design

Martin makes a Smart move

BY JAMES P. ONG AND JEROME GOMEZ

"AFTER BEING so stupid all my life, I finally got smart." That's how Martin Nievera characterized his recent decision to be the new face of Smart Communications' new campaign, "Simply Amazing." He was introduced to the media at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu, during the recently held advertising congress there.

"Smart and I share a common mission—we both want to communicate with as many people as possible—both here and around the world—with a clear, distinct voice," he says.

The singer's last major product endorsements were for a soft drinks and toothpaste. Both fizzled out after his separation from wife Pops Fernandez.

According to Boy Martirez, head of Smart's mobile services division, the ties that bind the telecoms company and Nievera go a long way back, since the singer is a regular guest in Smart's Christmas parties. Nievera, says Martirez, is practically part of Smart's family.

> The recording and concert performer wows Cebu crowd

For Nievera, the deal is definitely a good one. Notwithstanding contrived proclamations ("Since I got Smart, my life's just been simply amazing"), he says he actually is a loyal Smart user.

To stay in touch with possible promoters, he uses Smart zed to check his e-mails and call overseas. Of course, his mobile provider also gives him the latest foreign exchange rates, and international and local news updates. He also uses Smart's roaming feature to keep in touch with his kids, Robin and Ram.

Proud father

In fact, the proud father says he also got his kids Smart Buddy cell phones with activated Smart Money accounts, which they can use for emergency purchases—particularly when he is out of the country. He simply transfers money into their accounts, from his own Smart Money account, at his convenience.

"I just feel a bit more at ease," he says, "knowing that they can have access to money for needs that may suddenly come up—all they've got to do is bring their cell phones and Smart Money cards with them."

The same night his endorsement was announced, the concert king gave Cebuanos the first public taste of the full length "Simply Amazing" jingle, which he composed with Rod San-

MARTIN/ p.G3

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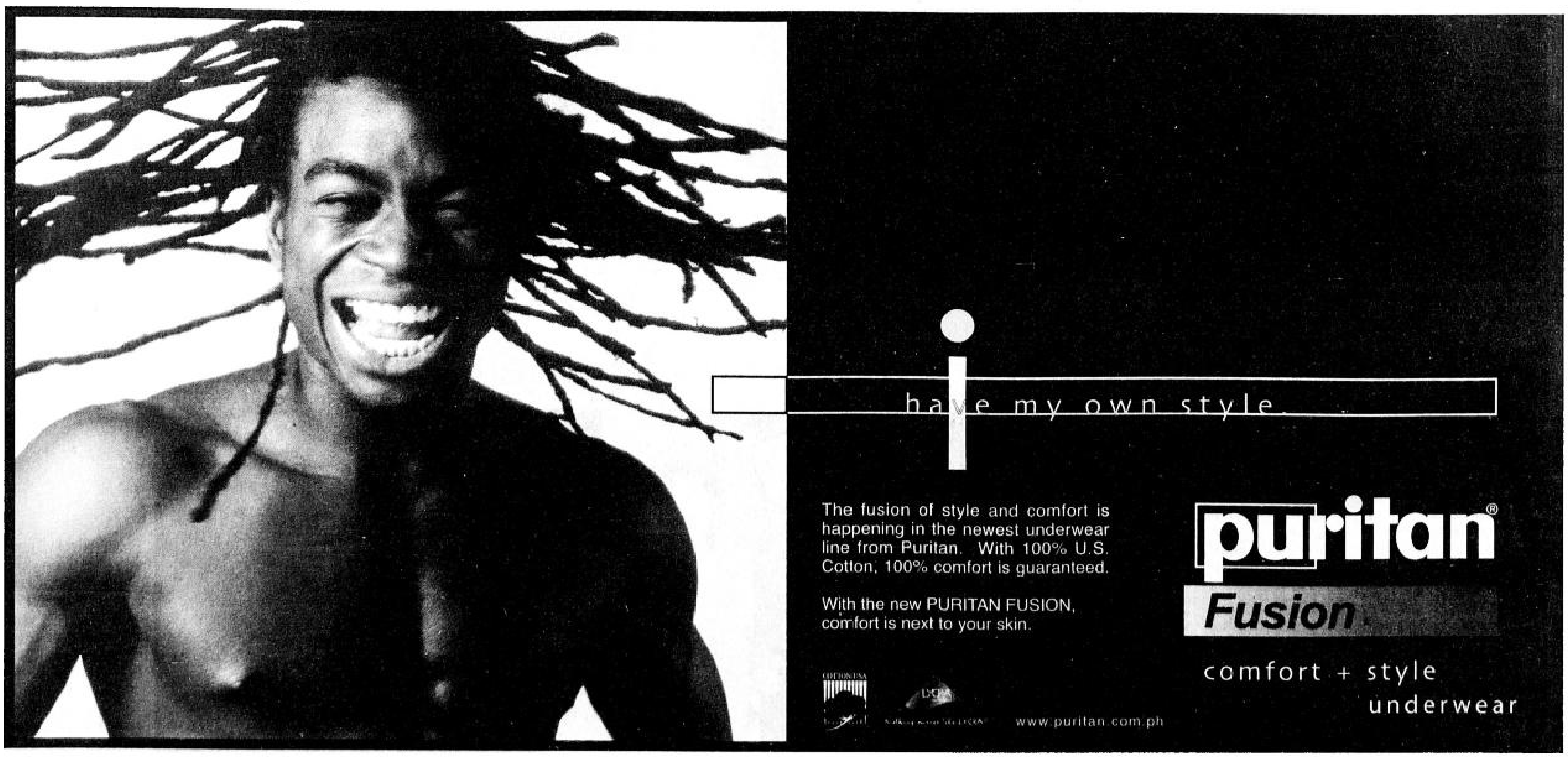
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GEMINI Grafix president Fely Banguis (center) AmCham Foundation executive director Hilda Tabar-Cleofe (third from left) with organizing committee heads Aida Marshall (fourth from left) and Marjon Ruffner (sixth from right) pose with the staff of AmCham and the AmCham Foundation.

American ball, German classical music and pals of culture

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By *Amiga*

'TIS the season to be jolly, according to the song, and if you can't manage that, it's the season for bazaars, balls, book launchings and Christmas parties and just about any kind of celebration. The American Association of the Philippines and the Public Affairs Section of the US embassy, together with Anvil Publishing, launched **Mary Racelis** and **Judy Celine Ick**'s book on the Thomasites, "Bearers of Benevolence," at the Seafront Compound on Roxas Boulevard.

For a peek at what the Philippines was like at the turn of the century, this collection of essays by the American teachers who came to bring education and the concept of democracy to Uncle Sam's new possession is an interesting read for the holidays. Available at National Bookstore and Solidaridad.

* * *

The major sponsor of the annual Thanksgiving Ball of the American Chamber of Commerce at the Rigodon Ballroom was Procter and Gamble, which received a special Corporate Citizen Award. Caltex, Marsman-Drysdale, Santa Fe Moving Relocation Services, AT&T Executive International Movers Inc., Eastwood City Cyberpark, San Roque Power Corp. and Standard Charter also helped raise the P1.27 million that will benefit street children under AmCham's socio-civic arm, the American Chamber Foundation, a nonstock, nonprofit organization dedicated to help Filipinos through various social development programs.

* * *

German Ambassador and Mme. **Herbert Jess** presented an evening of classical music with renowned German maestro **Justus Frantz** and his quintet rendering selections from Schumann and Dvorak as well as an impressive repertoire of Eastern European music at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin. The pieces were brilliantly played by Bulgarian violinist **Martin Panteleev**, Hungarian violinists **Joszef Lendvai** and **Peter Menyhart** and cellist **Alexander Bagrintsev** of Belarus. The Manila performance of Philharmonia of Nations, a dream of **Herbert Von Karajan** who was Maestro Frantz's conductor when he made his breakthrough as an international pianist for the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, was supported by Mandarin Oriental, Lufthansa Technik Philippines, BMW and Siemens.

Among the guests were Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti** and his wife **Clara**, New Zealand Ambassador **Terry Baker**, Russian Ambassador **Anatoli** and **Valentina Khmelnitski**, Swiss Ambassador **Werner Baumann** and wife **Susanna**, Japanese Ambassador and Mme. **Yoshihisa Ara**, **Klaus Schroder** of Aboitiz International, **Rosalinda Orosa** and sister National Artist **Leonor Goquinco**, INQUIRER chair **Marixi Prieto**, Dr. **Ing El Khafif** of Bilfinger and Berger Construction, **Daniel Tertel** of Bayer Philippines.

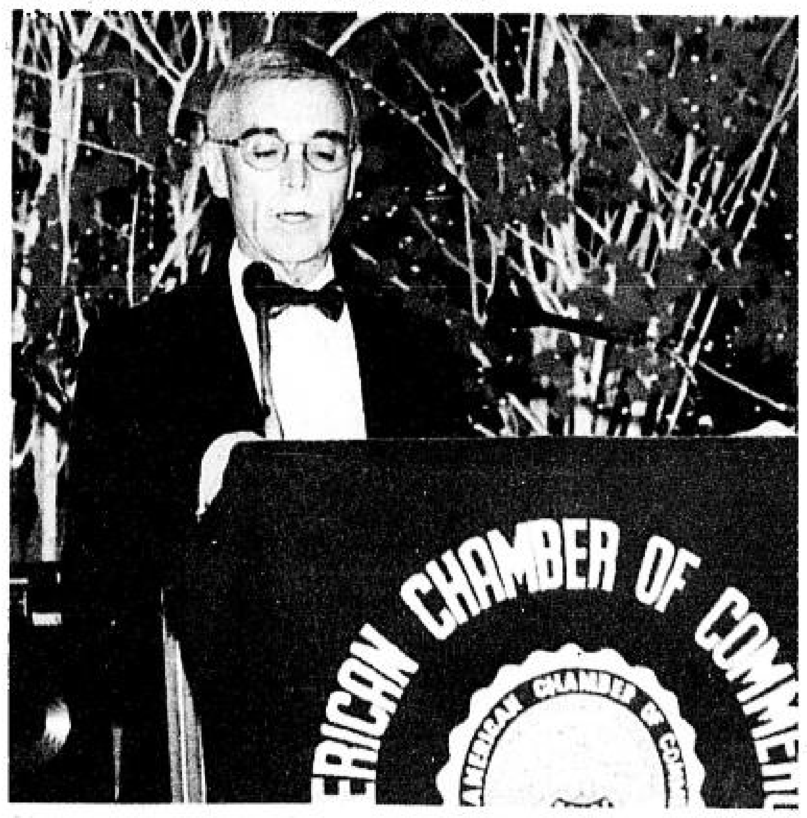
* * *

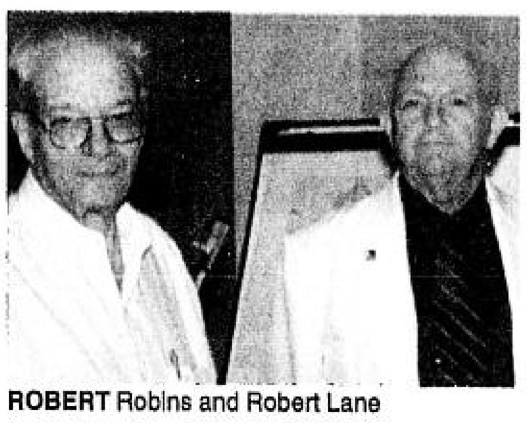
It has been an auspicious year for FCCP (Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines) Foundation under outgoing president **Thelma Gana** what with their change of name, various outreach programs and successful bazaar. The annual ball at the Westin Philippine Plaza had members bejeweled and bedecked, delighted to listen to **Cez Manalo**'s Manila Symphony Orchestra II and baritones and sopranos from the UST Conservatory of Music rendering both arias from operas and songs from Broadway. This was followed by a short dance number of tangos and rumbas by selected members showing off their terpsichorean skills.

We saw **Peping** and **Chloe Romulo Periquet**, FCCP VP, whose table included Belgian Ambassador and Mme. **Peter Rosting**, Ambassador **Isabel Wilson, Toting del Rosario, Beth Day Romulo**, National Artist **Arturo Luz** and wife **Tessie** playing host to Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja** and **Elena Colomé** from Singapore, visiting her bridge buddies and daughter **Marit Yuchengco**, not necessarily in that order. Among the crowd were Ambassador Ara and wife **Myriam Brigitte**, Ambassador to Malta **Enrique Syquia** and wife **Letty**, Turkish Ambassador **Veka Inal**, Mexican Ambassador and Mme. **Enrique Hubbard**. Of course, there was **Meldy Cojuangco**, stunning as usual, and **Johnny Litton** who announced FCCP founding chair **Chito Collantes** was sick or she'd have been there dancing too; glamorous **Fortune Ledesma** who was off to Monaco for the National Day, **Nena** and **Al Casimiro, Boysie Villavicencio, Mari Lacson** and lots of culture and glamour enough to fill a book.

THELMA Gana, Meldy Cojuangco, Johnny Litton, Letty Syquia, Chloe Periquet, Cez Manalo and Melly Ablaza

AMBASSADOR Susanna Baumann, Letty Syquia, Clara and Umberto Colesanti, and Michelin Jess


AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines president Terry J. Emrick


ROBERT Robins and Robert Lane

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

BRAZILIAN charge d'affaires Carlos Carvalho and Norie Ongsiako

DR. Michael Anderson, Robert Fitts and Noli Santos

GERMAN Ambassador Herbert Jess with Maestro Justus Frantz

MEXICAN Ambassador and Mme. Enrique Hubbard with Tessie Luz

TURKISH Ambassador Veka Inal and Ambassador Enrique Syquia

BETH Day Romulo and Belgian Ambassador Peter Rosting

Filipino dance troupe wows audiences in Austria

THE CERCLE Diplomatique, the leading magazine in Austria catering to the diplomatic corps and Vienna's 500, recently featured the Philippine Embassy Folklorico Filipino Dance Troupe during its 30th anniversary at the Vienna Intercontinental Hotel. The dance troupe was organized by Connie Guanzon-Garcia, wife of Philippine Ambassador to Austria Victor G. Garcia III, and Ana Maria Langer, a long-time resident of Austria, as artistic director.

The dance troupe performed Singkil, an epic Muslim-Maranao dance. Roxanne Garcia, daughter of Ambassador Garcia, played the role of the princess.

The Philippine Embassy Folklorico Filipino Dance Troupe will have other performances at the Asian Cultural Evening on Jan. 21, 2002 at the Schönbrunn Palace and at the Hofburg Palace ball of the IAEA on Feb. 16, 2002.

PATRICIA Sutter, Evelyn Ziegler, Ambassador Karl Diem, Connie Guanzon-Garcia, Gigi Vuzem, Ambassador Victor G. Garcia III, Roxanne Garcia, Josef Vuzem, Nilsa Fischer and Ruth Rossi

Martin makes a Smart move

MARTIN Nievera performs the crowd's favorite hits (left) and beams during a press con in Cebu.

(From page G1)

tiago and longtime collaborator Louie Ocampo.

He performed it as part of the free concert the telecoms company organized at the Crossroads, one of the many sprouting night-out strips in the Queen City. The venue gave his repertoire of staples a breath of fresh air. The audience was also treated to a new Martin piece to listen to and sing along with.

The big crowd that gathered that evening were made up mostly of Cebu's cell phone-toting teen set. They stood up at the Crossroads party-performance pavement all throughout the 11 songs that the Big Mouth performed.

And Nievera did not disappoint.

He gave the same amazing energy expected in his performances, and the same flair for speaking to his audiences, as if they were as familiar to him as his Manila fans.

Pleasing

And he was clearly able to please everyone, squeezing in signature Martins like "Be My Lady" and "Please Don't Throw My Love Away," the controversial ballad "To Say Goodbye," and Ricky Martins such as "La Vida Loca" and "La Copa de Vida" to get the rather tame Cebuano crowd to dance, in the free mini-concert.

While not all of them took to Martin's invite to shake their bonbons with him, everyone was literally oohing, aahhing and wowing at the fireworks spectacle that followed his performance.

Everyone's gaze was glued to the five-minute sky show, the most impressive Cebu has seen, and which must have cost the Smart guys easily a couple of millions.

One teenager was even heard saying, "*Tama na, hindi ko na kaya.*" We didn't hear anyone say "simply amazing," though.

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PAMBANSANG UGONG NG KABATAAN 2001

National Youth Summit • DECEMBER 10-12, 2001

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

President GMA to underscore agenda for the youth

MILLIONS of Filipino youth will get a chance to have their priority concerns heard by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when the National Youth Summit kicks off today in Malate, Manila.

Dubbed Pambansang Ugong ng Kabataan (PUNK) 2001, the summit seeks to develop and present the youth's plan for action to address the primary issues and concerns affecting them. PUNK 2001 is the first project that aims to fulfill Pres. Arroyo's directive to create and enforce within three years government policies on the survival; protection, development and participation of the Filipino youth. Pres. Arroyo will commit to the creation of a National Youth Agenda at the close of the three-day conference at the Corporate Inn in Malate on Dec. 12, Wednesday.

The event is the culmination of more than five months' collaboration of government, private sector, non-government organizations and youth representatives who took part in 16 regional consultations last September. It is organized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission together with the National Youth Commission (NYC).

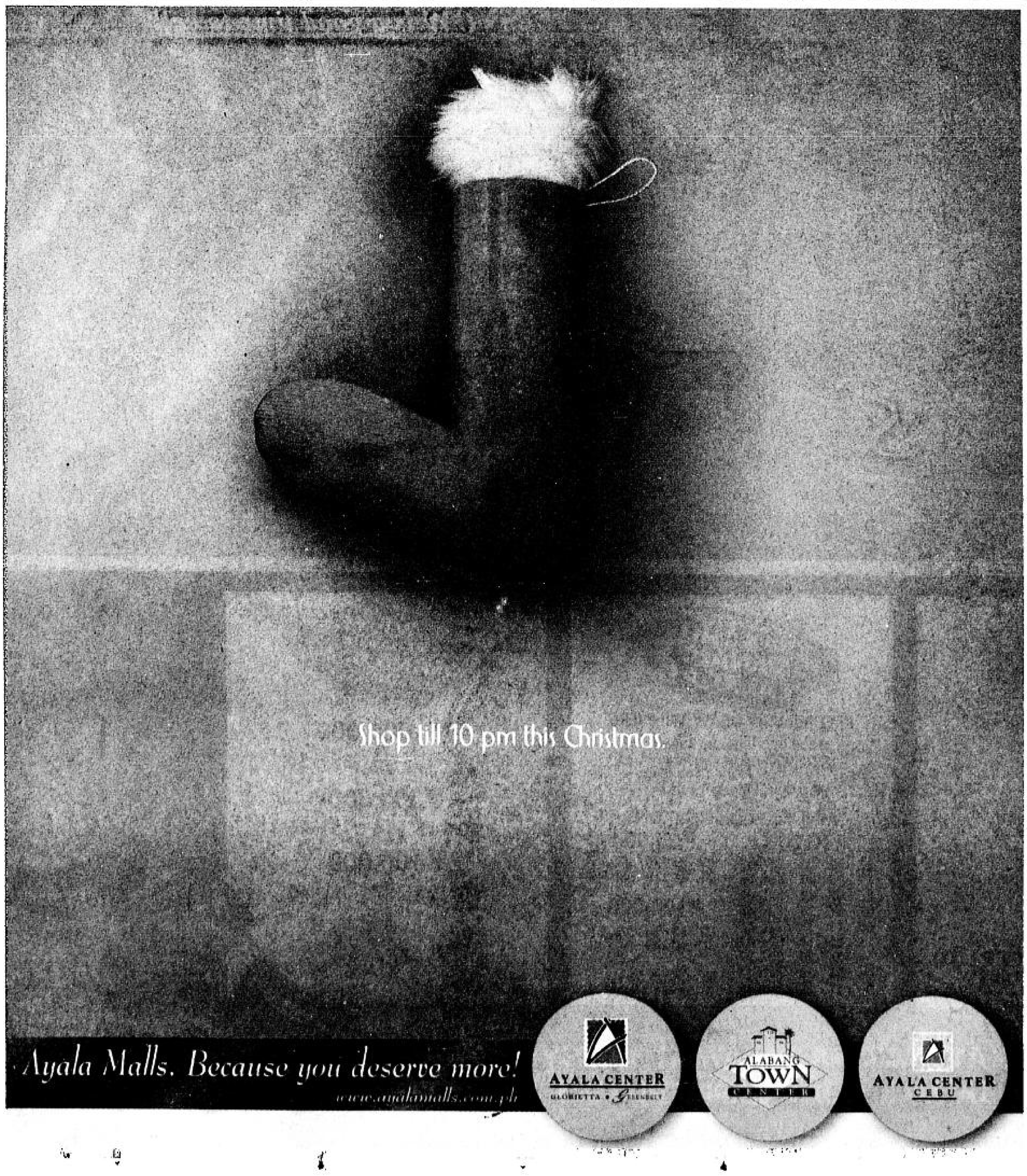
Special attention

Explains Paulo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, NYC commissioner-at-large: "*Ang PUNK ay ang ugong ng kabataan. Ito ay ugong na naglalahad ng mga pangangailangan at suliranin at ugong na nagsasabing ang kabataan ay kabalikat sa ikauunlad ng bayan.*"

The summit draws the participation of thousands of youth from rural and urban areas all over the country. It is giving special attention to out-of-school youth, working youth, and youth with special needs such as those with disabilities or are members of indigenous groups. PUNK 2001 brings together these sub-sectors, which compose four-fifths of the youth population, not only to identify their concerns but also to establish linkages to help solve such issues themselves on a nationwide scale.

Youth delegates at the regional consultations held in September have already committed to actively participate in youth-

PRESIDENT GMA/ G6



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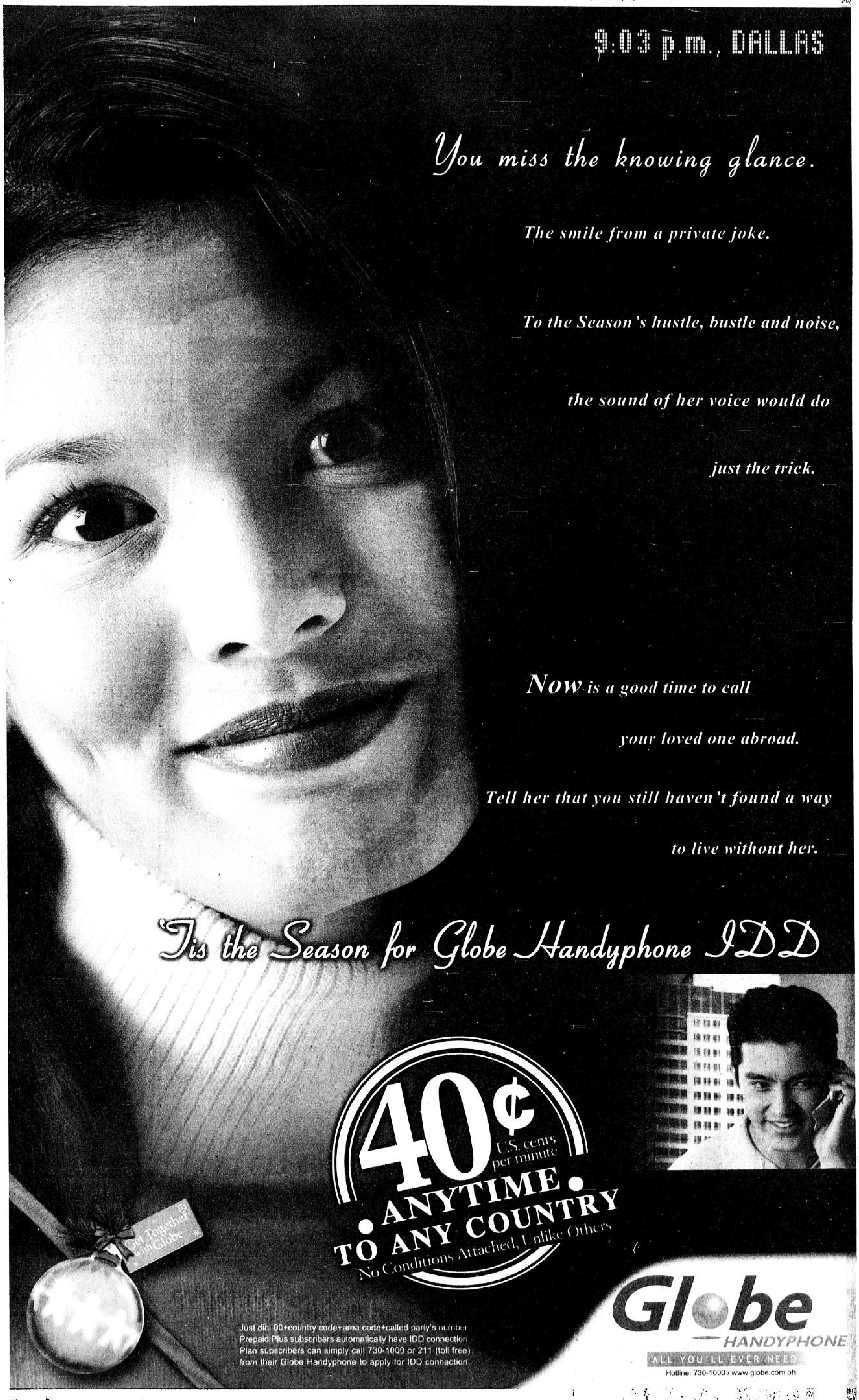
Nov. 30 – Dec 22	10 am – 10 pm
Dec 23	10 am – 12 mn
Dec 24	10 am – 8 pm
Dec 25	12 noon – 8 pm
Dec 26 – 30	10 am – 8 pm
Dec 31	10 am – 6 pm
Jan. 1	12 noon – 8 pm

Alabang Town Center

Fridays thru Sundays	10 am – 10 pm
Mondays thru Thursdays	11 am – 9 pm
Dec 23	10 am – 12 mn
Dec 24	10 am – 8 pm
Dec 25	12 noon – 8 pm
Dec 26 – 27	11 am – 9 pm
Dec 28 – 30	10 am – 10 pm
Dec 31	10 am – 6 pm
Jan. 1	12 noon – 8 pm

Ayala Center Cebu

Dec 15 – 21	10 am –9 pm
Dec 22 – 23	10 am – 10 pm
Dec 24	10 am – 8 pm
Dec 25	12 noon – 8 pm
Dec 26 – 30	10 am – 9 pm
Dec 31	10 am – 8 pm
Jan. 1	12 noon – 8 pm



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PUNK
PAMBANSANG UGONG NG KABATAAN
2001

President GMA . . .

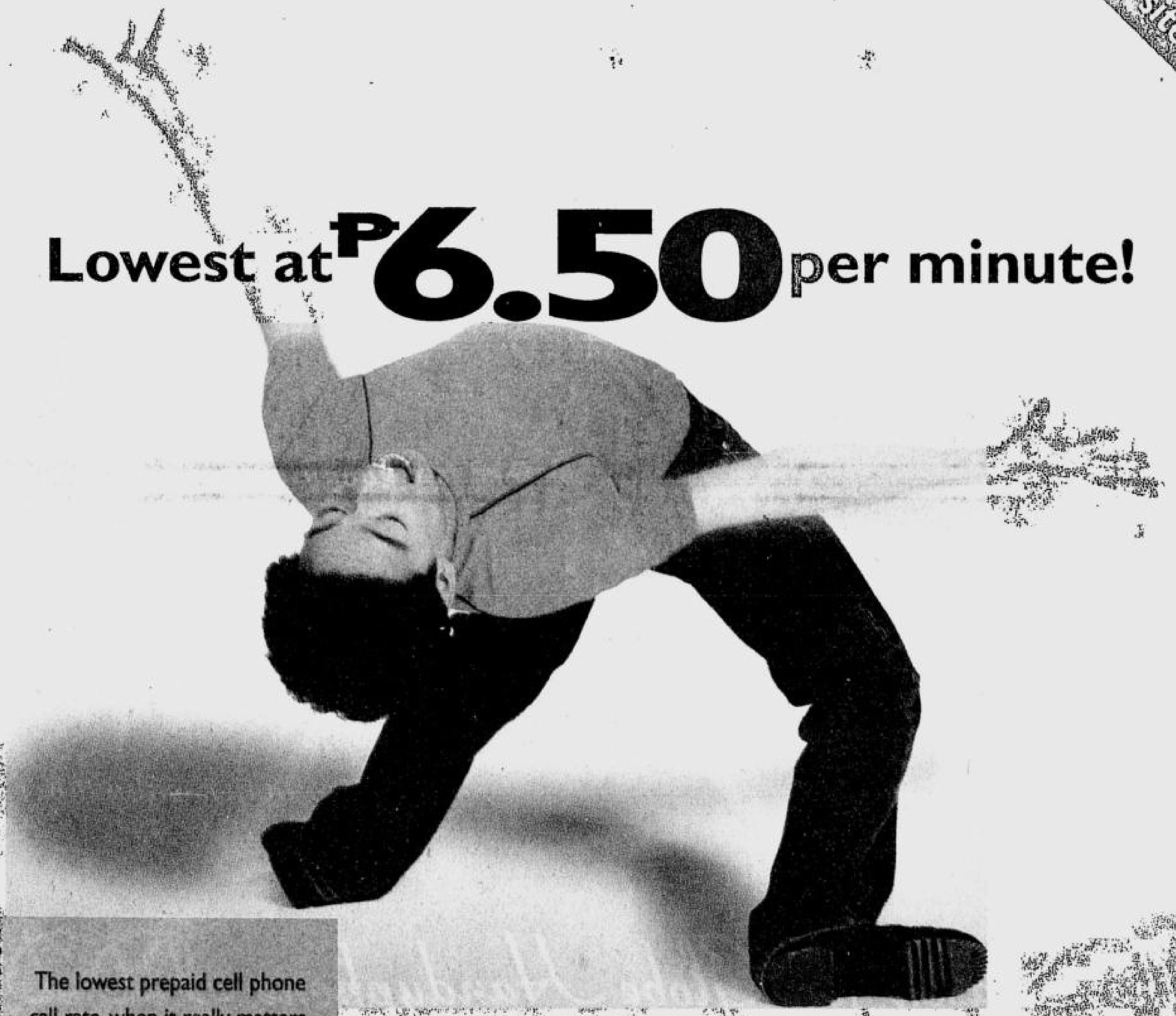
(From page G4)

oriented projects, promote cultural heritage, and campaign vigilantly for youth issues in their communities. Representatives from the regional youth summits will discuss with members of Pres. Arroyo's Cabinet priority demands such as:

- Access to affordable quality education and educational assistance
- Protection from substance abuse, discrimination, child labor, sexual abuse, and armed conflict
- Adequate programs from government and private sectors for dis youth, youth belonging to ethnic groups, and those with other special needs
- Participation in programs for environmental awareness and protection, voter's awareness, policy-making, and implementation of youth programs

Aquino believes that the outcome of the National Youth Summit will be the basis for policies that will impact his sector. "Government, youth, the private sector and all other stakeholders should look at the results of PUNK and determine what best they can do for the youth sector," he notes.

> "Ang PUNK ay ugong na nagsasabing ang kabataan ay kabalikat sa ikauunlad ng bayan"



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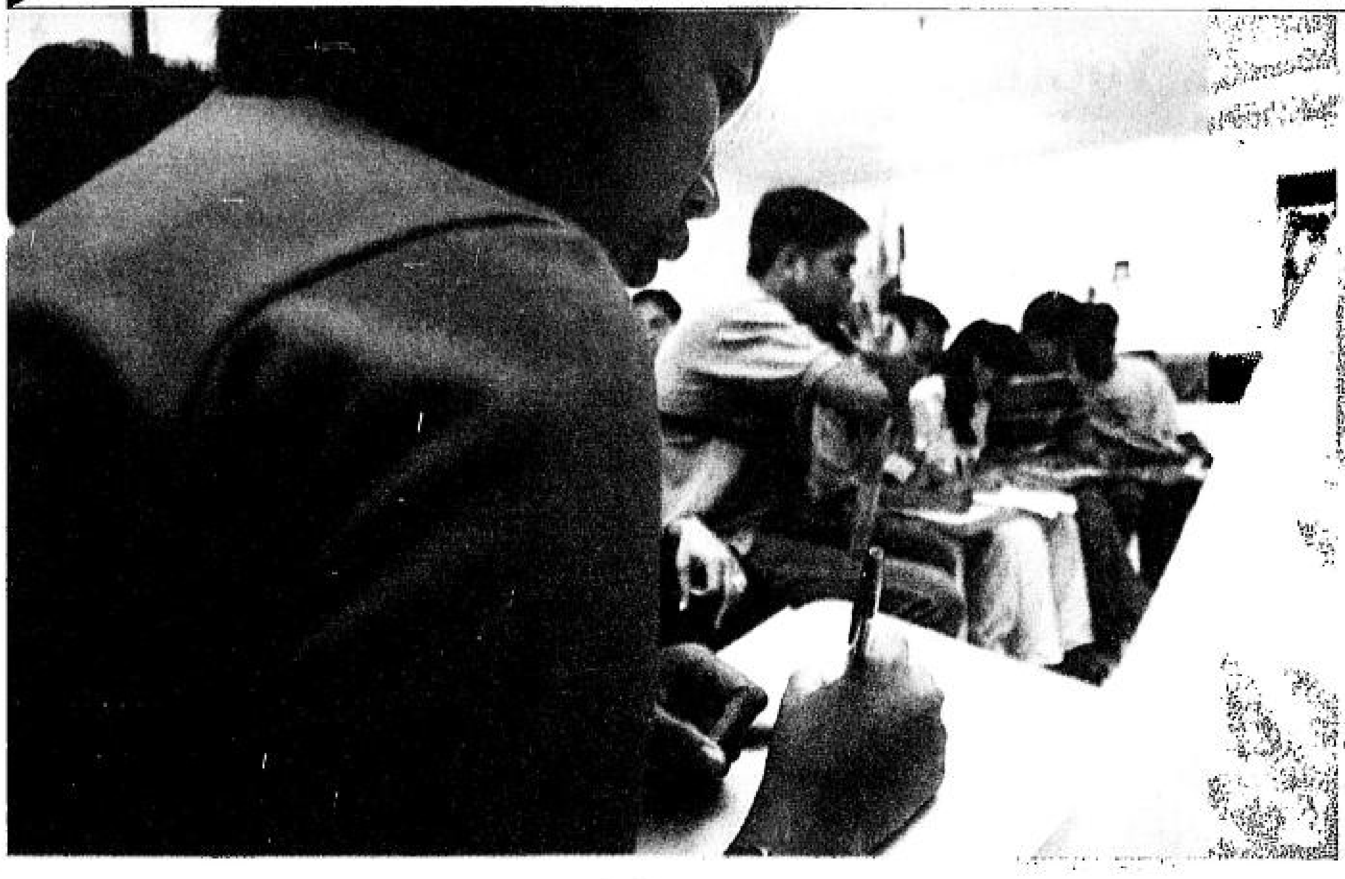
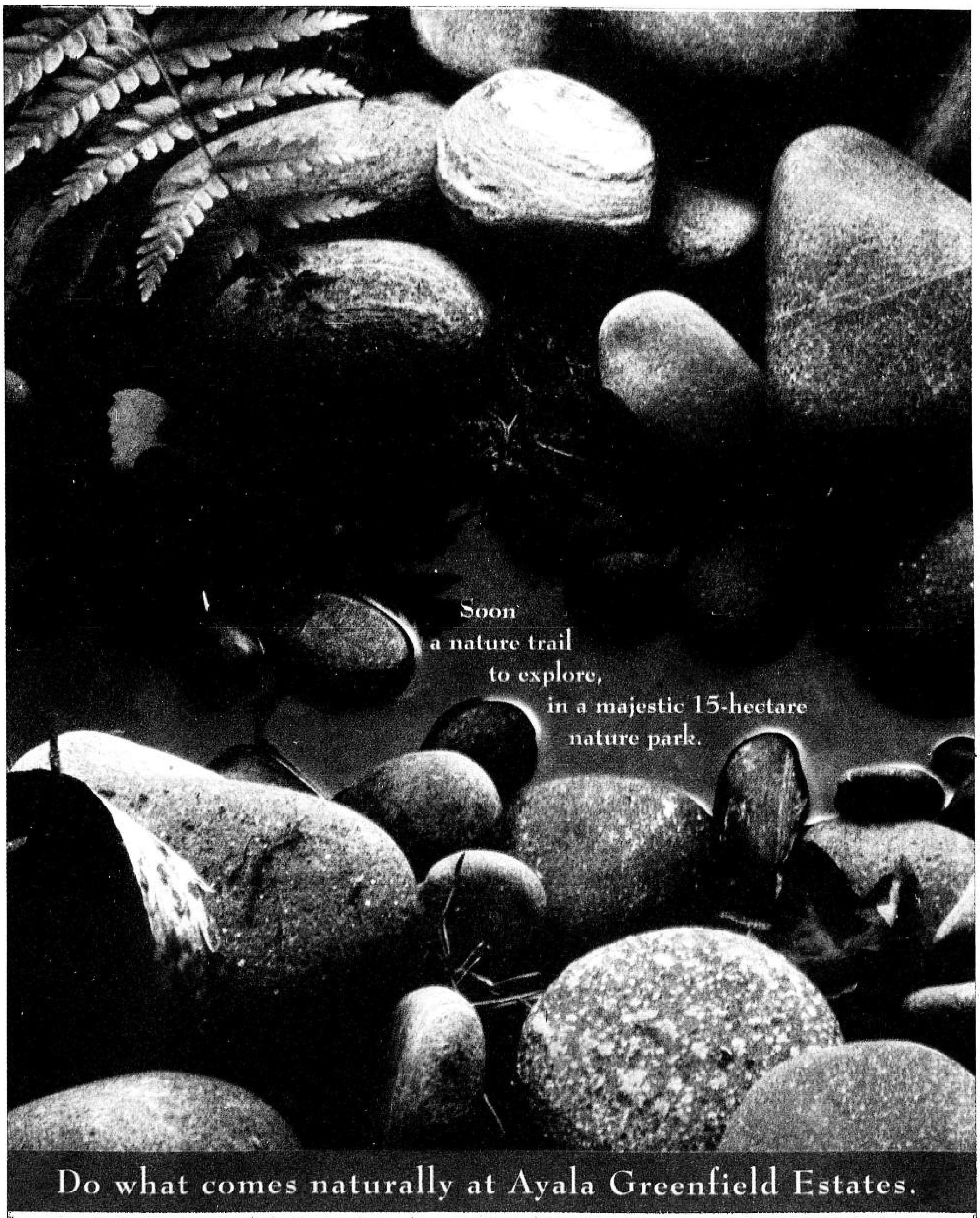


PUNK

PAMBANSANG UGONG NG KABATAAN

2001

PUNK 2001 brings together in-school youth, out-of-school youth, youth with special needs, and working youth for various consultations to identify their concerns and help establish a National Youth Agenda.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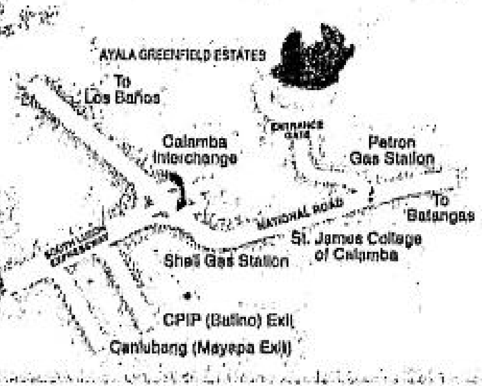
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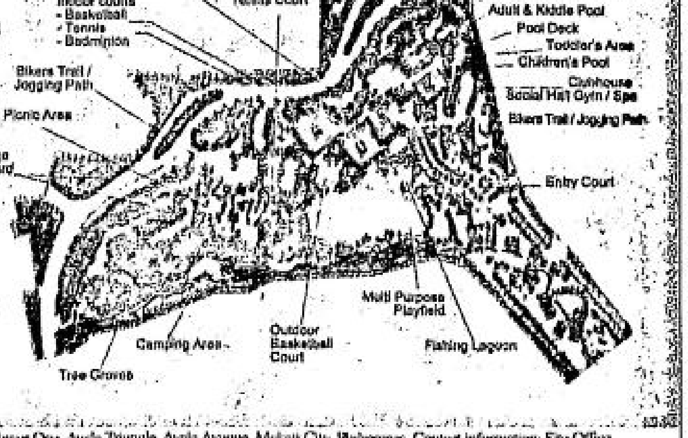
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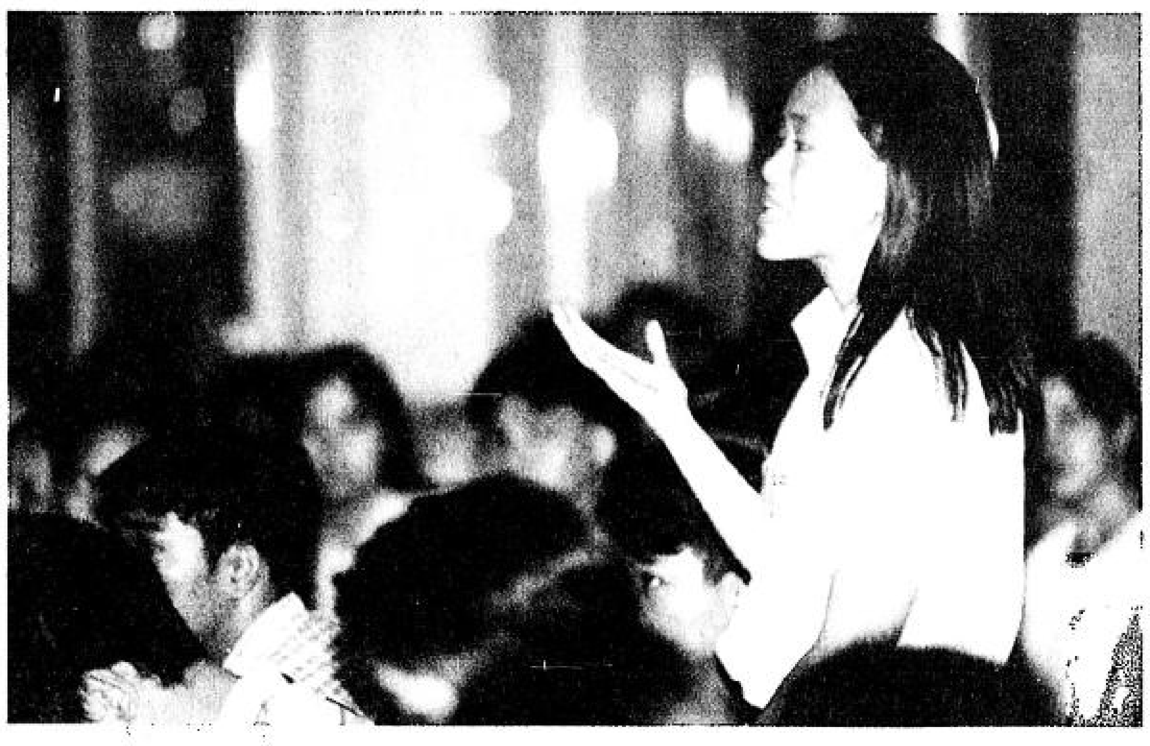

Youth voters registration set Dec. 10-26

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has scheduled the registration of youth voters for next year's Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on Dec. 10 to 26, 2001. Qualified youth voters are those aged 15 to 21 years. This year's registration is undertaken by Comelec offices nationwide. Registrants must proceed to the Comelec office in their respective cities or municipalities for listing. In the past, registration was undertaken at the barangay level.

Young voters who have already registered under the Comelec's continuing registration program no longer need to register for the SK elections.

The 2002 youth elections will be held simultaneously with the barangay elections in May next year.

However, the National Youth Commission (NYC) expressed apprehension over Comelec's immediate scheduling of the youth registration. NYC Commissioner Paulo Benigno Aquino IV expressed fear that the information about the registration process might not reach the grassroots before the end of the registration period and may result in a low turnout of registrants. That happened in 1995 and prompted the Comelec to extend the listing period that year.

Comelec estimates that there are 7.5 million youth voters aged 15-21 nationwide.

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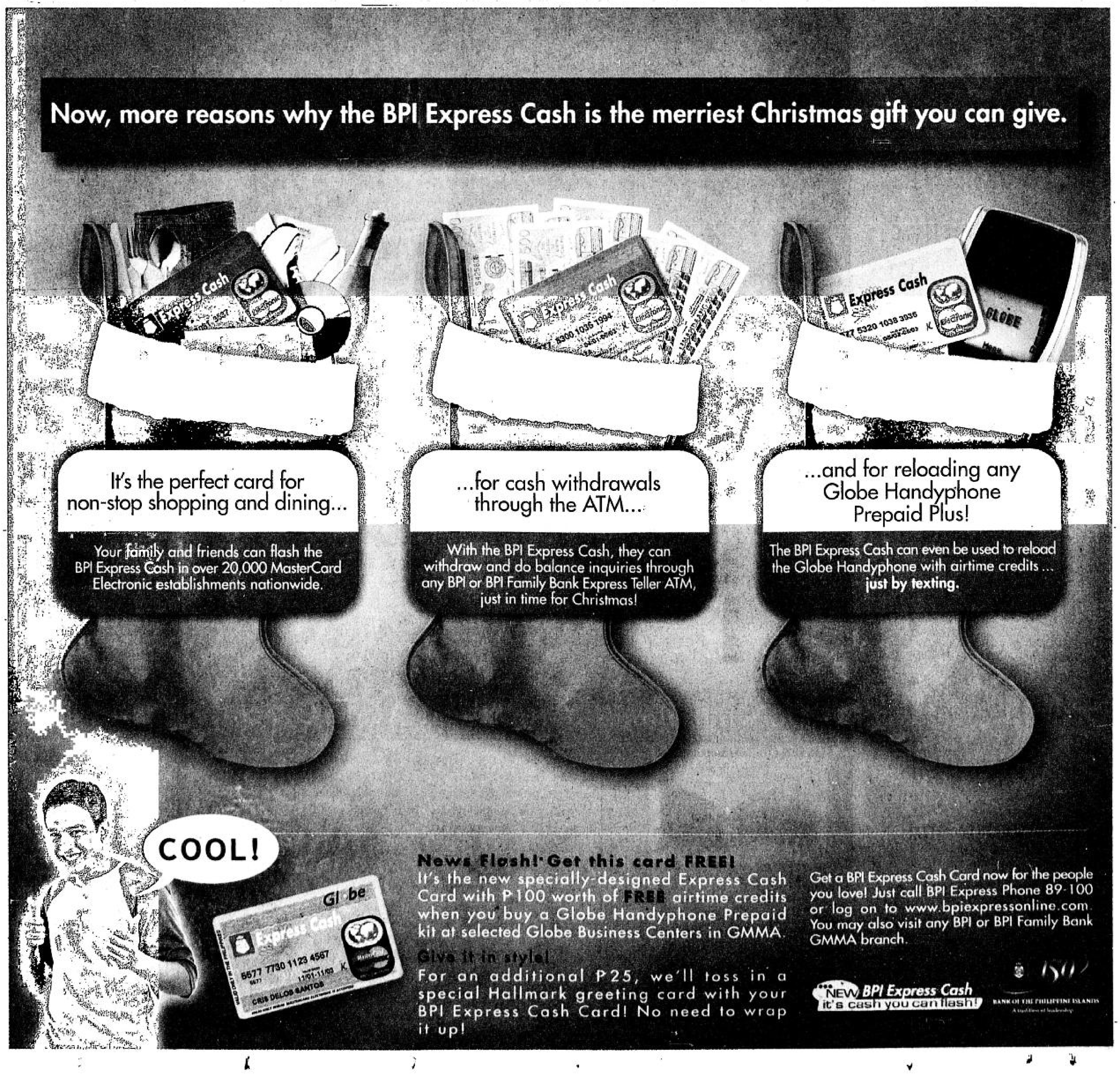

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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

Oracle embarks on 'unbreakable' campaign, bets big on clusters

IN TYPICAL Larry Ellison fashion, the CEO and chair of Oracle Corp. has declared that its database and application server products are now "unbreakable" and cannot be breached or crashed by any system intruder.

The flamboyant head of the world's largest enterprise software company says that no one can break into Oracle9i as the company unveiled Release 2 of its application server.

Ellison also set his company's direction toward the use of real application clusters (RAC) and is betting big on the use of such technology as he announced a complete overhaul of Oracle's products toward the optimal use of clustering.

Clustering technology refers to the use of a group of separate computers to cooperatively manage a single software resource such as a database.

Oracle's "unbreakable" marketing campaign stresses that, when referring to Oracle, you "can't break it" and you "can't break in." This comes at a time when high data availability and security from system intrusions are becoming high on the list of requirements in the networked enterprise.

"You can't break it because it won't go down if a server fails," Ellison said. "The others in the cluster will just continue running. You can't break in because it has 14 international security certifications. IBM has none, and Microsoft only has one."

IBM has a competing database product in the form of DB2 and Oracle archenemy Microsoft Corp. has a SQL Server.

"This is how we distinguish ourselves from the game manufacturers," added Ellison, in reference to Microsoft which recently entered the gaming console market with the Xbox.

Ellison admits that the "unbreakable" campaign has opened up the company to more potential system attacks, as hackers may see it as a challenge. He says, however, that no break-ins have occurred so far although attacks have increased tenfold since the marketing campaign started.

"Every kid from Berlin to Redmond may be trying to break into our system right now," he says. Microsoft is based in Redmond, Washington.

Oracle has had a legacy of developing secure systems for the US government, with its very first customers being the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

The "unbreakable" campaign drew a response from Microsoft, which distributed play money with the words "Is your budget unbreakable?" printed on the dollar bills. Oracle has often been seen as an expensive product targeted only at large businesses.

In response, Ellison said: "I'm not even sure if he (Bill Gates) is allowed to print his own money."

He added that feature-for-feature, Oracle becomes more economical than its competitors.

"You can't expect a Mercedes-Benz to be cheap," Ellison said.

Clustering and caching

Oracle has also been moving its product line toward the optimal use of clustering technology, and Ellison says they have finally found the right solution. He says that Oracle started rewriting its entire software line starting in 1989 to accommodate clustering.

There are three advantages to this, says Ellison. One is that the system becomes fault-tolerant since you'd have several servers running the operation. If one breaks down, the other will continue operating. Two is that the system becomes scalable since you can add more computers as your needs grow, resulting in unlimited performance increase. Three is that clustering is more economical in the sense that you don't have to buy one big, expensive computer system and replace it later on when that computer becomes obsolete. You just add on more computers in the future.

Ellison says that with Oracle9i, the company has achieved its goal 12 years ago when it started rewriting its software toward the use of clustering. He also admits that Oracle's previous clustering claims before RAC were mere marketing pitches.

"This is the use of real application clusters because you can use existing applications like PeopleSoft, Siebel and SAP on 9i without changing a single line of code. IBM has clusters used only for marketing. Those are marketing-only clusters. I know this because we've had marketing-only clusters for the last 10 years," Ellison said.

Having overhauled his software for the last 12 years, Ellison is betting big on clustering technology. Asked what back-up plan he has just in case RAC isn't accepted by the market, Ellison says: "If RAC doesn't fly, I have no back-up. I'll spend more time sailing."

Aside from clustering, the reliability and security points of the new 9i campaign also focus on the use of advanced caching features. Oracle9i uses what is called a "shared disk" approach, where multiple computers in a cluster get data from one source or storage. If one of the computers goes down, the others can still retrieve data from the storage device, providing continuous availability for all applications.

Also, cache capacity becomes bigger because you add on more memory to the entire system as you add on more machines.

In contrast, IBM's DB2 and Microsoft's SQL Server use the "shared nothing" approach, where each machine in a cluster has different data access allocations. One machine will have access to one part of the data, while another will have access to another segment of the data and so on. They share nothing from the storage allocations.

Oracle believes the shared disk and shared caching approach is better since the data is available at all times even when one of the machines goes down.

The Oracle9i Application Server now includes support for the Java 2 Enterprise Edition 1.3, enterprise-level Web services and integration, unified messaging and new portal and wireless features.

"IF RAC (real application clusters) doesn't fly, I'll spend more time sailing," Ellison says.

Storing multiple charts in one chart sheet

POWERTIPS

BY JERRY LIAO

IT has been a habit for MS Excel users to create and then display charts either as part of the worksheet or in separate chart sheets. Instead of storing them separately, you can actually group them in lesser number of chart sheets.

Here's how:

1. Create your chart and place it in your worksheet.

2. Select any blank cell and press F11 (to create a new chart sheet).

3. Return to your worksheet and select your newly created chart.

4. Click on the Chart Menu and select Location.

5. Under the Chart Location dialogue box, choose "As object in" and specify the empty chart sheet.

6. Excel will transfer the embedded chart to your chart sheet.

7. Create new or select your remaining charts, and use Chart, Location to move them to the chart sheet. Now you can arrange and size the charts any way you like.

Added tip: You can also move your charts from another worksheet to the same chart sheet using the same procedure.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Simply register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via e-mail.

For your comments, questions and suggestions, e-mail us at infochat@mozcom.com.

INQ7 caters to gamers with launch of @Play

INQ7 Interactive Inc., the online news delivery organization of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc., has launched @Play to address the needs of the growing community of Filipino gamers.

@Play, which can be accessed by clicking on the Infotech section of INQ7.net at www.inq7.net, offers news and features from the exciting world of gaming, game trivia and profiles of young Filipino gamers.

This week, find out the fate of the official Philippine Counter Strike team that was supposed to participate in the world championship. Then, learn what makes cyberchicks tick and why these virtual babes can turn on real people.

Regular @Play features include Blast from the Past, which takes a look at classic games and gaming systems; Character Reference, which features a different game character every week; Game Trivia, which offers little-known facts and answers to some of the most nagging mysteries in gaming; and Young Gamer, which profiles a different gamer every week.

@Play will also publish original contributions from readers, including articles, personal essays, game tips and trivia, game reviews and profiles. Readers will have the chance to be published online at INQ7.net while building and taking active part in a thriving community for Filipino gamers all over the world.

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Ayson says DotPH not yet off the hook

BY ERWIN OLIVA
INQ7.NET

PHILIPPINE domain registry dotPH Inc. is seemingly not yet off the hook despite the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) dismissal of consumer complaints filed against the company.

DotPH officials announced on Wednesday that the DTI has dismissed four out of five consumer complaints filed against them.

Even before DotPH can rejoice, one of the complainants, James Ayson, insisted that DotPH has misconstrued the facts, pointing out that the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP), an attached agency of the DTI handling the cases, was not the proper venue for his complaint.

"It appears that so far as my participation in the consumer mediation hearings is concerned, DotPH has once again managed to misrepresent the facts. The truth of the matter is the case (involving conflict of interest in E-mail Co. and DotPH ownership) was dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction since the issue involves policy, not a consumer issue," Ayson said via e-mail.

Ayson said that the BTRCP will elevate his complaint to the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council, the country's highest policy-making body on information and communications technology, with the help of the DTI's Office of Special Concerns.

"I therefore did not withdraw my complaint," Ayson said, noting that he is now awaiting action from the Office of Special Concerns.

"It is clear that this matter is not closed as it now joins the other charges facing DotPH at the ITECC which are in the nature of IT policy," Ayson added.

Ayson's complaint zeroes in on the alleged "conflict of interest" involving the joint ownership of EMC and DotPH by Joel Disini, the country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) administrator.

Disini is also chief executive officer of DotPH.

Ayson said that the close relationship of the three entities—EMC, DotPH, and the Philippine ccTLD administrator—has a historical basis.

The EMC, he said, has been engaged in selling PH domains to the public since 1990, the year that the PH domain was created.

Prior to the establishment of DotPH in 1999, Ayson pointed out that EMC was responsible for operating and maintaining the servers needed for PH domain administration.

Even today, he said that EMC provides network services to DotPH.

"Historically, EMC has also given away free PH domains to its subscribers, a feature that its marketing materials have described as an exclusive feature of the ISP. In my opinion these relationships constitute a conflict of interest," Ayson continued.

In a letter to the DTI on May, Ayson requested the agency to investigate the alleged joint ownership of EMC and DotPH by the ccTLD adminstrator.

Ayson argued that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has rules outlining the responsibilities of a top level domain administrator, and believes that Disini might have crossed the lines.

ICANN is a non-profit, private sector corporation formed by a broad coalition of the Internet's business, technical, academic and user communities.

It has been recognized by the United States and other governments as the global consensus entity to coordinate the technical management of the Internet's domain name system, the allocation of IP address space, the assignment of protocol parameters, and the management of the root server system.

"In my opinion, the issue of conflicts of interest has at its basic policies that have to do with ccTLD administration for the Republic of the Philippines. In so much as this is an Internet policy issue rather than a consumer complaint issue, these mediation meetings are not the proper venue for this issue to be heard," Ayson said in a written statement given during a mediation meeting last month.

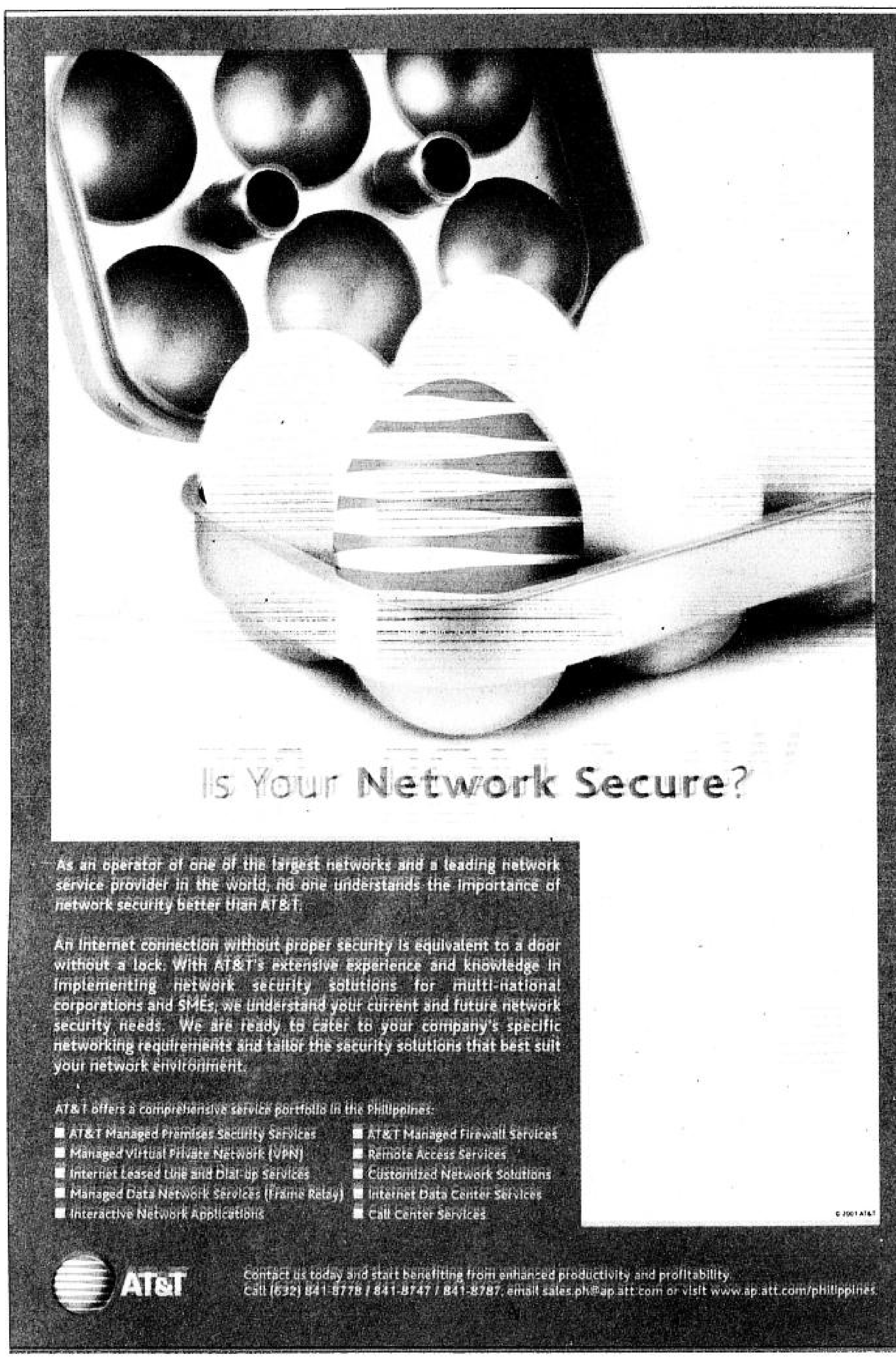
"(Disini) should have no business interests that can benefit from his position as this conduct is unbecoming," he added.

Ayson said that the ITECC is in a position to recommend to ICANN that certain major issues be made in the PH domain, such as the replacement of the PH domain administrator.

"This has already been done in Australia, as their .AU domain was redelegated from the original administrator to a non-profit body by ICANN upon the recommendation of the Australian government," Ayson said.

Reacting to the developments, Assistant Trade Secretary for Information Technology Toby Melissa Monsod said that the ITECC, as far as she knows, has not yet taken up Ayson's complaint.

For related stories, go to
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/dec/06/inf_1-1.htm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A gamer called aNgeLa

SO much for stereotypes. Usually, people think of gaming as the domain of guys or those annoying little kid brothers who can beat you in every video game ever invented. Sixteen-year-old Angela, who's in third year high school at the Reedley International School, certainly doesn't fit that outworn picture.

Time to meet the lady who can kick your butt in Counter Strike.

ANGELA

How would you describe yourself—your personality, likes and dislikes? What do you like doing online and offline?

I describe myself as friendly and outgoing. I try to make friends with everyone I can, regardless of how old they are. I've got 10 or 20 "little sisters" in grade school. As for the outgoing part, I go out of my way to get involved in all I can. In school, I joined the student council and helped start the cheerleading squad.

I like sports, movies, kids, video games, my computer, talking on the phone, purple and baby blue, reading books and, of course, shopping. I don't dislike anything really.

Online, I chat a lot (irc.mydestiny.net, #Dogz) and frequent message boards (http://mesbrds.mydestiny.net/dogz). I also play Counter Strike on the Destiny gaming servers. They've got a great gaming community.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever done?

I pretended to be a guy online so guys wouldn't try to hit on me. I was really bad at it. I think everyone knew I was really a girl. Like I said "I'm glad there are a lot of other girl gamers here" and one person said, "But I thought you weren't a girl." Oops...

How did you get hooked on gaming? Who first introduced you to gaming and what was the very first computer game you played?

I got hooked on gaming 'coz I always tagged along with my *kuya* to LAN cafés and I found one of the gamers cute (no naming 'coz I don't wanna embarrass him anymore). I thought if I played PC games he'd be impressed. I ended up playing all the time, and although I didn't impress him, I found a new hobby. Even before PC games, however, I played a lot of PlayStation and Super Nintendo games (whoa, Super Nintendo…that was so long ago). I think having an older brother got me into video games.

The usual stereotype is that it's mostly young males who are really into gaming, particularly if we're talking about CS and other shooters. How do you feel about this stereotype and do you believe that more women are dispelling this myth?

Since we were kids, guys played GI Joe and girls played Barbie. So, naturally, the stereotype will always be there. Girls are definitely changing people's minds by simply going to LAN cafés and playing online. A lot of guys are realizing that there are girls that can and will beat them. Girls can kick ass too.

Is it difficult to be a female gamer? Have you ever been bothered by stalkers online or while playing in cybercafés or tournaments?

I don't think looks has anything to do with your skill as a player. Although a friend of mine is always saying cute girls have the advantage in LAN cafés 'coz guys are busy staring at them. I've been bothered by guys, mostly online, but I have a lot of friends that play too so they tell the weirdos to back off. Sometimes in LAN cafés guys will talk to me, but since I'm normally with a group of friends, the guys don't say or do anything weird.

What's the best thing about being a female gamer and what are some of the drawbacks?

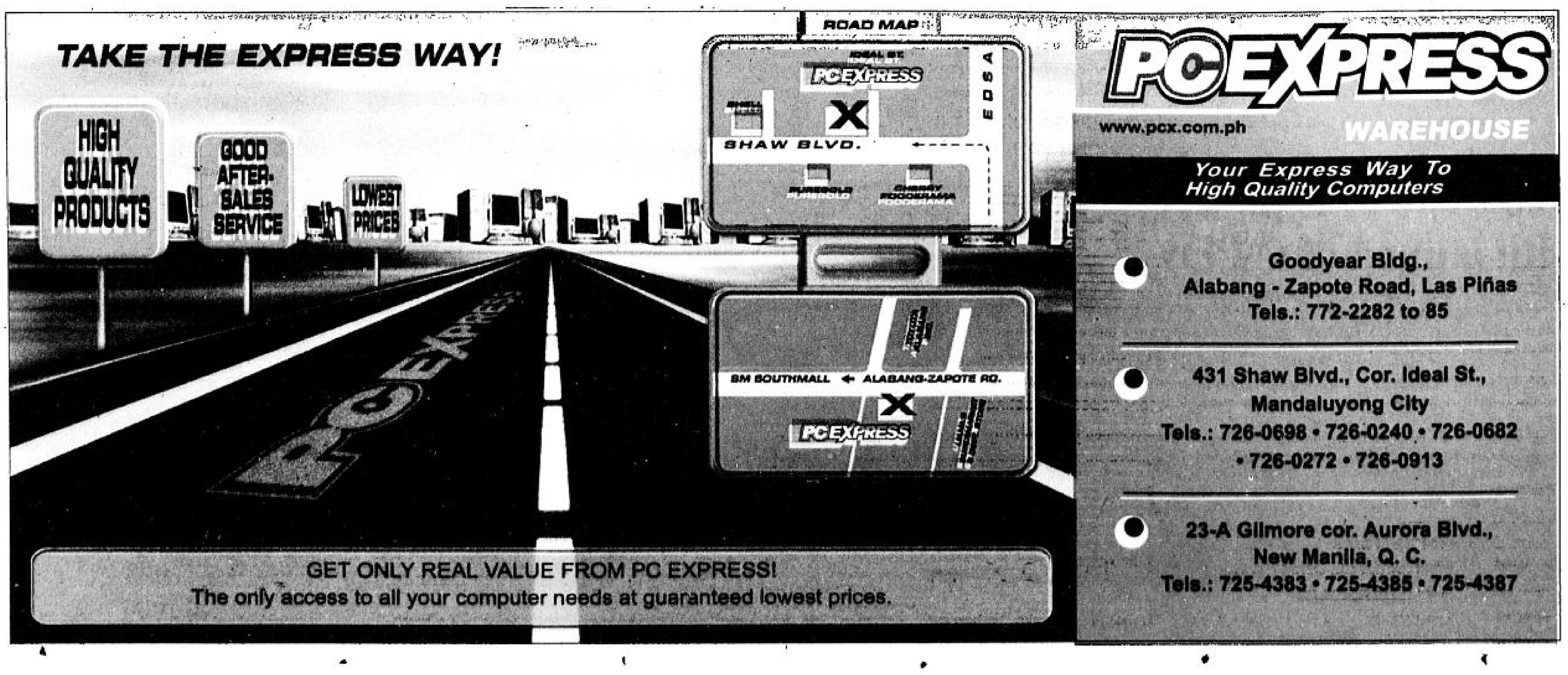
I think there are more advantages to being a female gamer. I'd like to think that guys and girls are equal, but since there are a lot of gentlemen out there (thank God) girls get a lot of respect. Guys are quick to offer you a chair and little things like that. As for drawbacks, I get the occasional "You might break a nail" or something dumb like that. Those taunts are normally replaced with something along the lines of "*t*** i**, pinatay ako ng babae*!" hehe.

Right now I don't belong to a gaming clan. I used to be part of +GG+ which broke up so we could all spend time studying rather than practicing. My clan has joined a tourney, but I didn't get to play. I was just an alternate. I used to use the nick "slick," as an attempt not to be girly, but right now I use "angela" 'coz being a girl gamer is nothing to be ashamed of.

For the full interview, go to
INQ7.net
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/dec/07/inf_7-1.htm

* * *

Are you a gamer age 29 and below? If you're a Filipino or Filipina (or have Filipino blood—we're not the Bureau of Immigration) anywhere in the world, send in your profile and get a chance to be featured in "Young Gamer" at INQ7.net's @Play gaming subsection. We'll feature a different gamer every week, so e-mail infotech@inq7.net today and help us link Filipino gamers all over the world.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DICT seen to absorb science department's research center

BY ERWIN OLIVA
INQ7.net

THE DEPARTMENT of Science and Technology's (DOST) research and development arm might end up under the proposed Department of Information and Technology (DICT).

Science Undersecretary Fortunato dela Peña said that this was one of the proposals included in the bill being prepared by the committee on government reorganization at the House of Representatives. If this proposal pushes through, the DOST's Advanced Science and Technology Institute would become part of the DICT, Dela Peña said.

Dela Peña, however, said some questions might be raised regarding this proposed move.

"Besides being our research and development arm, IT is not part of ASTI's mandate," Dela Peña said.

Established in 1987 through Executive Order 128, ASTI is currently an attached agency of the science department. It conducts scientific research and development in advanced fields, including communications engineering, microelectronics and, recently, information technology.

The agency is currently working on Bluetooth research, and several initiatives including Preginet, an ambitious project to set up a nationwide broadband network infrastructure that will interconnect academic institutions, government offices and research and development centers in the Philippines with other research and education networks worldwide through the Asia Pacific Advanced Network.

The creation of the DICT was included in the legislative priorities of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address.

Similar to Malaysia's Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, the DICT is envisioned to be the government's "superbody" mandated to oversee initiatives and activities in information and communications technology in the country.

It will also be the body setting policy directions in ICT.

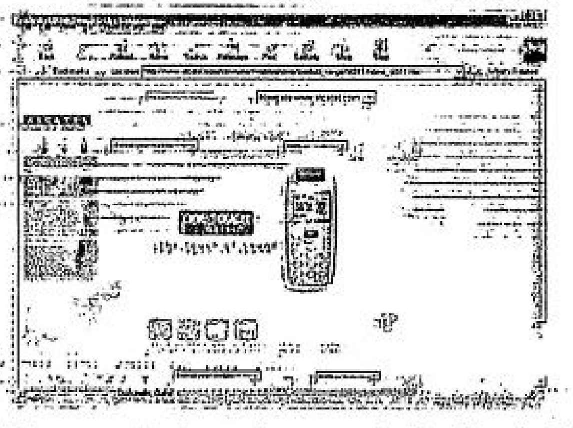
Dela Peña said the DICT intends to merge functions of existing agencies, such as the Department of Transportation and Communications, the National Telecommunications Commission, the National Computer Center (NCC), and even the Postal Corp.

"We're currently studying the mandate of the NCC," Dela Peña said.

Dela Peña also co-chairs the e-government committee in the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council, the country's highest ICT policymaking body.

The House bill also wants the DICT to absorb the Science Technology Information Institute, another DOST-attached agency that handles media relations, agency communications and publications.

Alcatel targets RP's Gen-X market with new mobile phone



GLOBAL telecommunications player Alcatel has recently launched its latest mobile phone, the Alcatel One Touch 511, targeted specifically for young mobile phone users in the Philippines.

According to Rowen Untivero, Alcatel Philippine's country manager for mobile, the new product will be available in the local market this month and will be priced "competitively" at around P10,000 and could accommodate either of the two top mobile service providers Smart Telecommunications and Globe Telecom.

Although the product seems to focus more on providing young users with a price-for-value product, Untivero claims the One Touch 511 will also provide a good alternative for business users wanting to utilize short messaging system (SMS) and wireless application protocol (WAP).

Alcatel seems to be taking a different approach of the mobile market for the new Alcatel phone, giving emphasis on "polyphonic" sound and a new and improved phone interface. Polyphonics, according to Alcatel representatives allows users to create unique sounding ringing tones not found in other cellular phone brands.

Among other features, the One Touch 511 also has support for graphics such as logos, and can accommodate four ringing tones that a user can compose. The built-in antenna and techno-aluminum style casing are also indicative of the youth-oriented design of the phone. The phone also weighs an ultralight weight of 75 grams.

Storage provider bags supply deal with Intel

BY ERWIN OLIVA
INQ7.net

HITACHI Data Systems (HDS) recently won a global contract to provide chip manufacturer Intel with storage solutions, said Jose Allan Tan, HDS country manager for the Philippines.

In a recent briefing, Tan said that Intel operations worldwide, including here in the Philippines, will "standardize" on storage solutions provided by HDS.

HDS will provide the chip manufacturer with "mid-range" storage solutions, Tan said.

Founded in 1989, HDS is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd. The company has reported an annual sales revenue of $1.6 billion for fiscal year 2001 (fiscal year begins in April and ends in March). It presently employs 2,900 people. Since its launch in August in the Philippines, HDS claims to have made great strides.

"HDS is doing exceptionally well in the Philippines (considering) we started from scratch," Tan said, noting that the company's deal with Intel has somehow boosted its brand in the country.

Industry sources said that HDS has also bagged deals with several local companies.

Asked to name any deals made in the Philippines, Tan declined to give details.

"Relative to other markets of HDS worldwide, HDS in the Philippines is experiencing rapid growth. Asiawide, we have grown 70 percent of our business at the end of fiscal year 2001," said Tan.

Tan attributes HDS' growth in this region to the establishment of a marketing organization, which HDS lacked three years ago. "HDS is an engineering firm. It did not know how to sell," Tan explained.

HDS is also straightforward when it comes to pricing its products, Tan said.

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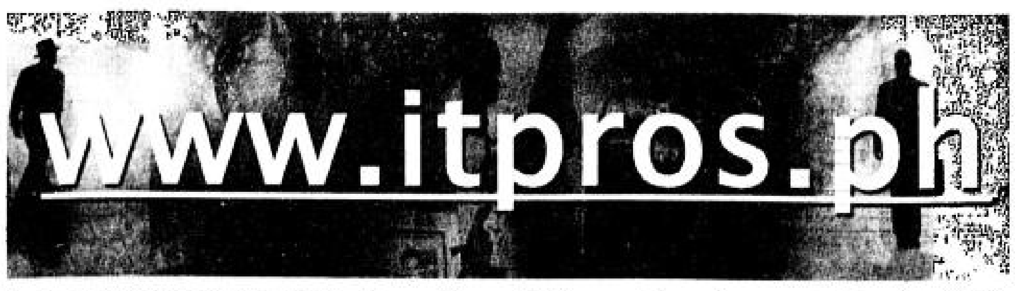

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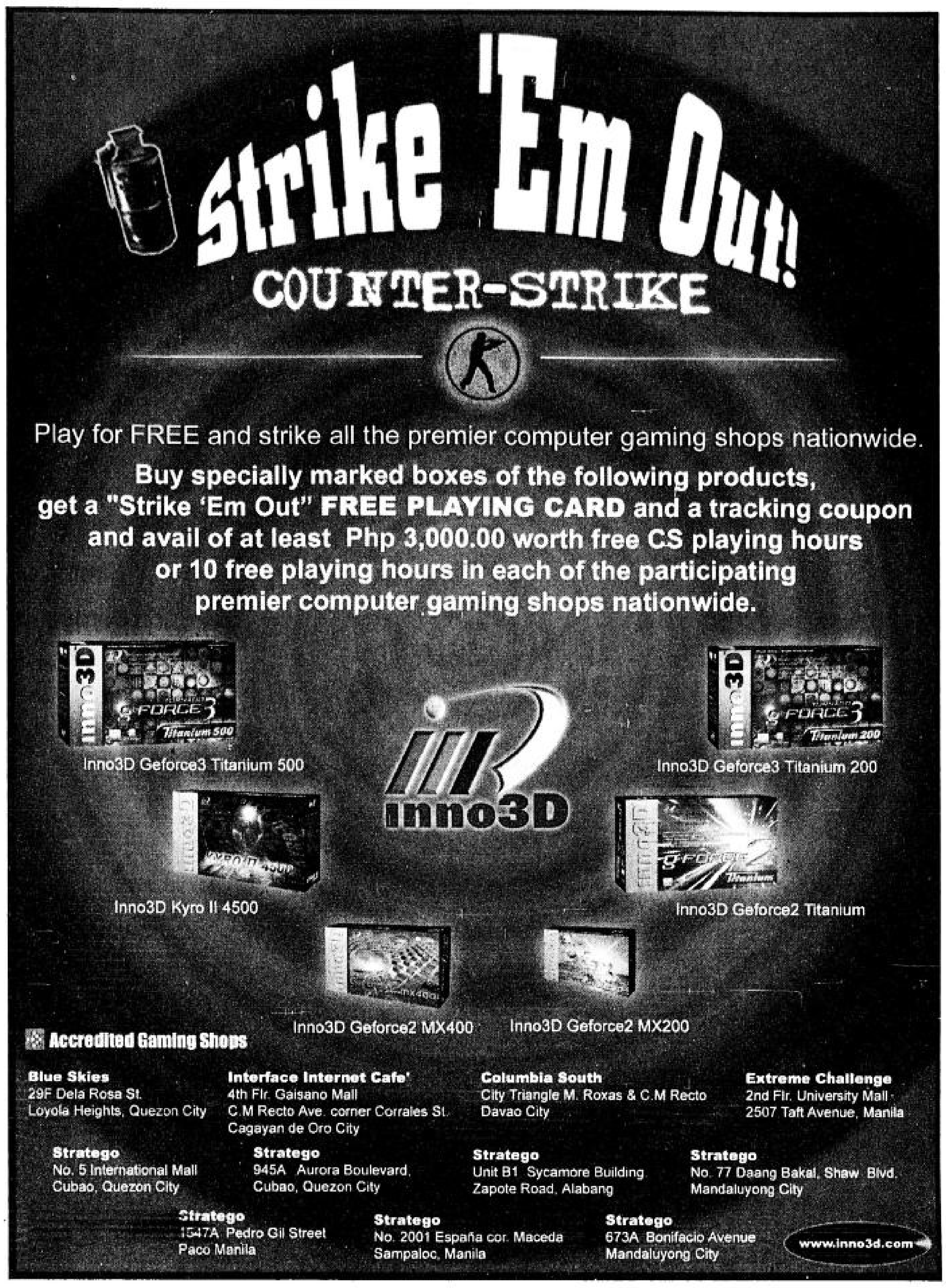

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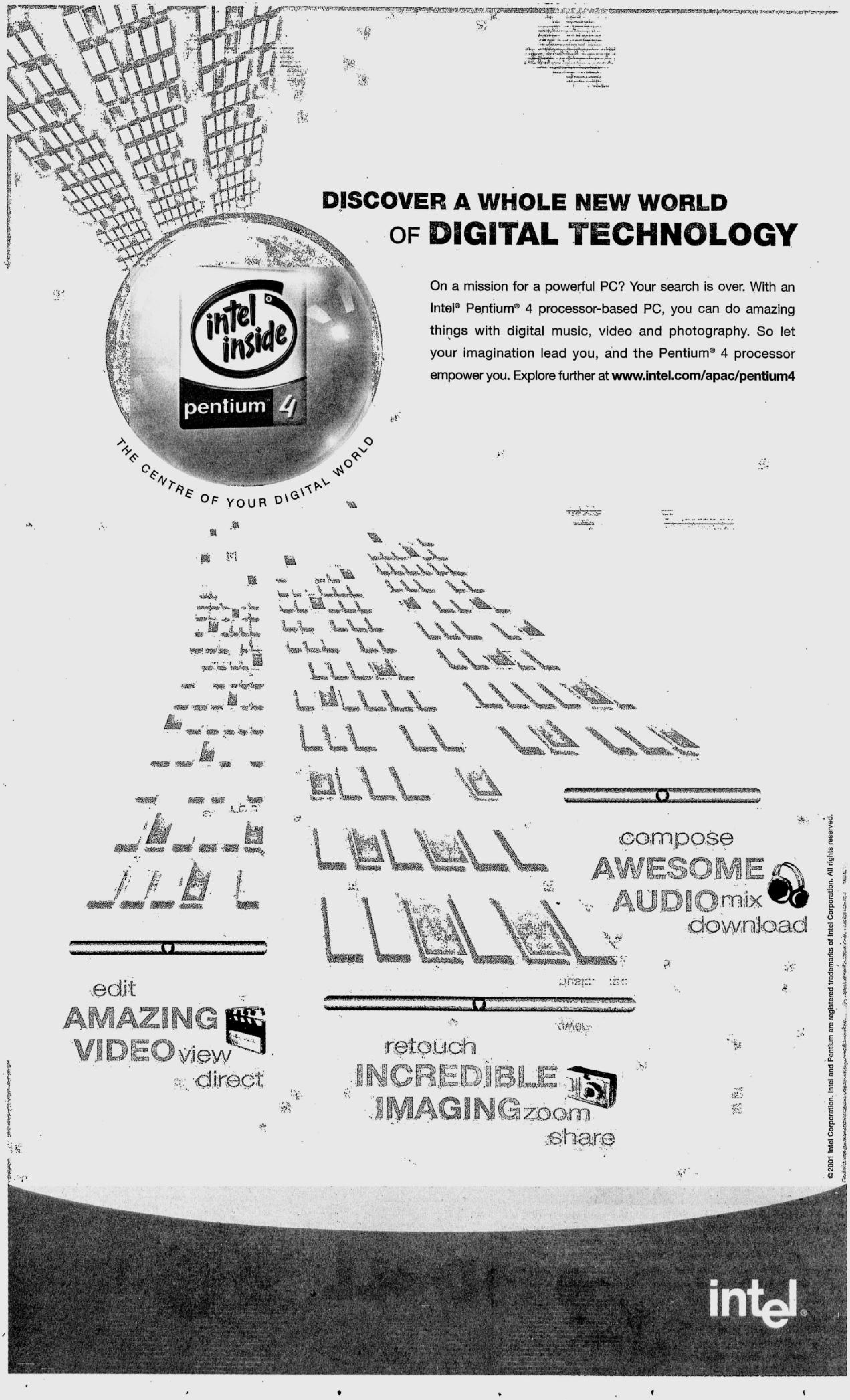

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